Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Foreign Ministers Discuss Conference

NC2609094891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid attended a meeting early this morning of the foreign ministers of the five-member committee, which includes Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and, for the Palestinian side, Dr. Nasir al-Qidrah, the permanent Palestinian delegate to the United Nations.

Following the meeting, al-Qidrah stated that the delegates discussed issues related to the Middle East settlement and the peace conference. The meeting also discussed coordination among the five members and the possibility of holding a five-party summit meeting that would be preceded by a preparatory meeting at the ministerial level.

Omani Minister, Mubarak Discuss Tehran Mediation

PM2609094691 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 4

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Bin-'Alawi Briefs Mubarak on His Mediation in Tehran"]

[Text] Cairo—President Husni Mubarak has received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who arrived in Cairo at dawn yesterday en route to New York to attend the UN General Assembly meetings.

Bin-'Alawi said that he was carrying a message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to the Egyptian president "concerning matters relating to the Arab nation's interests."

Bin-'Alawi's visit to the Egyptian capital follows his visit to Tehran and took place within the context of the mediation being conducted by the Sultanate of Oman to alleviate the severe tension between Tehran and Cairo resulting from the "war of words" between the two sides. Iran had criticized Egypt and described it as unqualified politically, geographically, and economically to participate in maintaining security in the Gulf region.

High-level diplomatic sources have told AL-HAYAH that Bin-'Alawi briefed Mubarak on the results of his mediation, which they described as successful, pending "a monitoring of Iranian officials' attitudes in the stage ahead with regard to stopping attacks on Egypt and its pan-Arab role and not interfering in its internal affairs."

The sources emphasized that "while Egypt welcomes any mediation designed to clear the atmosphere with Iran, it stresses that it will deal with any move toward understanding and dialogue, not confrontation, and will support whatever serves security, stability, and peace in the region."

The sources reaffirmed that "the Damascus declaration is an agreement comprising eight, not nine, states. The ideas proposed within its framework stem from the eight states"—the Gulf Cooperation Council members, plus Egypt and Syria. The sources emphasized Egypt's willingness to cooperate with any other party, including Iraq, that abandons its expansionist dreams and speaks the language of the present in its dealings, but it rejects cooperation with any party that has worked, or is working, to destroy Arab values and brotherhood.

* Results of Arab Maghreb Union Summit

91P40449A Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Sep 91 p 6

[Article by Jacques Barrin; first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction; quotation marks as published]

[Text] It took the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) over two and a half years to find a headquarters and a secretary general. Hassan II managed to make his Maghreb peers[1]—who gathered in Casablanca on Sunday the 15th and Monday the 16th in the absence of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi—fill this double gap. It is thus that the UMA will establish its headquarters in Morocco with a Tunisian as secretary general.[2]

Casablanca—Tunisia, who sought just compensation for its travails, was candidate for both [headquarters and secretary general]. Hadn't it played host to the Arab League for 11 years, installing one of its people as secretary general before the organization's return to Egypt at the beginning of the year? It had to oppose Morocco, which gave its blessing to UMA in 1989 in Marrakech, and now, when important events are taking place in Western Sahara, wants to resume the diplomatic initiative.

In addition, Hassan II had hoped that the Western Sahara affair be placed on the agenda at this summit and that his peers in UMA solidly back the Moroccan position. On that occasion, the local press had invited the Maghreb to "distance itself once and for all from the secessionsist drift," represented by the Polisario Front, and to erase the effects of "futile confrontations between the countries of the region," which have "been hampering the unity process."

In vain: Morocco's partners widely entrenched themselves behind the UN peace plan, which should culminate in a referendum for self-determination in early 1992. Algerian authorities stress that "it is up to the United Nations to achieve a process of decolonization for Western Sahara," it being understood that "it is necessary to find a solution that is satisfactory to all." They also hint at a possible "rapprochement between the two sides, which would permit them to arrive at the referendum togther."

Concerning the Middle East and the U.S. peace plan, the Maghreb chiefs of state kept to generalities, judjing it was first better to know the position of the PLO, whose national council would meet on 23 September in Algiers. They also prefered not to interfere in Hassan II's (UMA acting president) forthcoming visit to President Bush at the White House on 26 September.

The United States, during Secretary of State James Baker's recent tour of Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, offered UMA observer status at the Middle East peace conference. But before accepting this offer the Maghreb leaders wanted to come to a better understanding of the situation. According to Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, "participation is not an end in itself, it is not essential for the continuation of the peace process." In his opinion, the search for what he calls a "historical compromise between the Arabs and Israel," can "be carried out with or without us."

Even though he considers it to be a "useful exercise," Brahimi does not expect "much" from Mr. Baker's new mission to the Middle East. The Moroccan side strikes the same pessimistic cord. In an interview published Monday by the local weekly LA VIE ECONOMIQUE, Hassan II considers that Shamir will not make peace "because he will not want to give the impression that he has betrayed his promotion [as published]; he is of the centurion class; he will not want to go back on his decision." And in conclusion: "Shamir is not eternal. He will pass the torch to someone else, someone younger...."

Footnotes

1. UMA comprises Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, and Tunisia.

2. The summit also decided to distribute the various institutions of the UMA: the parliament in Algeria, the judiciary in Mauritania, the Foreigh Trade and Investment Bank in Tunisia, and the university and the Academy of Sciences in Libya.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestine National Council Session Continues

'Abd-al-Rahman, Muhammad 'Abbas Speak

LD2509162191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 91

[By correspondent Mouhcine Slimani]

[Text] This morning's work of the third day of the Palestine National Council [PNC] session was confined to the work of the 10 committees formed last night. The 10 committees have been working in closed sessions. The most important of these, however, is the political committee, which has been meeting at the general debate hall. It was attended this morning by president Yasir 'Arafat, who intervened at the request of committee chairman Nabil Sha'th, who is a member of the central committee.

President 'Arafat briefed the political committee on all the Palestinian moves concerning the convening of the peace conference of all sides involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, and including the numerous dialogues held by the PLO with James Baker.

We point out that members of the political committee asked the foreign minister of the state of Palestine to give them all the information relating to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Mr. Faruq Qaddumi explained that the PLO stressed to James Baker that the Palestinian delegation taking part in the peace conference should be appointed by the PLO.

In a statement to correspondents, Mr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, official spokesman of the PNC session, said that the committees will submit the results of their work tomorrow for debate in the hall. Concerning the peace conference, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said that Palestinian participation is linked to the U.S. commitment on stopping settlement.

In reply to recent Sharon statements concerning building a settlement along the Green Line which can absorb 20,000 settlers and another settlement in Jerusalem to absorb 15 settlers [as heard], the official spokesman of the session said that this operation basically is aimed at torpedoing the peace conference.

The important thing is that the correspondents here at the Palace of the Nations were confined this morning to what was happening outside the hall in expectation of the end of the work of the committees.

Concerning the movements of the leaders of some of the groups this morning, Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, said that the dominant trend in the 20th session weighs in favor of doubting U.S. intentions concerning the peace initiatives despite the diverse views between those who are for a settlement and those who are against it.

Shaykh al-Tamimi, leader of Islamic Jihad—Holy Jerusalem, stated that he opposes the peace conference and demanded from president Yasir 'Arafat a brief sentence: Bend, but do not break, i.e. maneuver but do not sign anything, as he put it.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi on Baker Talks

LD2609103191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] It was learned from confirmed sources early today that the Palestine National Council listened yesterday to Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, the two Palestinian negotiators who have been meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi briefed the PNC Political Committee for 90 minutes on their discussions with Baker, covering at least eight meetings in the past several months. They also reported on developments in the occupied territories.

Al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi arrived in Algiers from Paris yesterday afternoon.

Meetings Continue Behind Closed Doors

LD2609003591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Report by unidentified correspondent on the Palestine National Council's 20th session at the Palais des Nations in Algiers—live or recorded]

[Text] Security makes it necessary for the organizers to oust the national and international press from the Palais des Nations—that is what we were told at about 1630 when we were asked to leave the Palais hosting the PNC's 20th session and to return for further coverage tomorrow. This happened while the ten committees were still meeting behind closed doors. The prevailing belief here at the Palais des Nations regarding the ousting of journalists is that there is to be a decisive meeting behind closed doors to examine the question of participation in the peace conference and to determine the stance on all proposals presented, especially by the United States; the stance that the organization could take in this session vis-a-vis the formation of the Palestinian delegation; and the form of its participation in the peace conference.

In addition, some reports from Palestinian sources say that the two Palestinian personalities, Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, joined the PNC today for fear of leaked information concerning talks with James Baker that could be interpreted by the media before the PNC had taken a stance. According to reports circulating here, another reason is that the organizers have uncovered a leak that was providing information to correspondents on discussions being held inside the hall where the Political Committee is convening.

Regarding the report by president Yasir 'Arafat to members of that committee, some Palestinain sources close to the committee say that he presented detailed and comprehensive analyses on the PLO's situation in light of the profound changes that are taking place within the international community and that are taking a course diametrically opposed to the demands of the PLO, especially those concerning finding a solution to these demands.

On the peace conference, Palestinian sources reaffirmed that president 'Arafat asked members of the Political Committee to think, together with him, of a response other than yes or no to participation in the peace conference; neither of these options, Yasir 'Arafat pointed out, gives a minimum of guarantees as far as the PLO's demands are concerned.

We point out that according to the same sources, president Yasir 'Arafat has sensed some sort of development in the U.S. stance as a result of the latest exchanges between the U.S. Administration and the PLO. The former now addresses the Palestinian people and not, as was the case before, the Palestinians.

As to the issue of representation, we point out that the leaked information confirms that the Political Committee has agreed that the appointed Palestinian delegation will include Palestinian personalities from Jerusalem only in order to stress the need for including the issue of Jerusalem in negotiations.

Another point believed to have become a subject of unanimity concerns the possibility of reverting to an organization of armed struggle and to what is called gang warfare due to the PLO's difficult position, which imposes on it self-reliance in sustaining blows and continuing the struggle for Palestinian self-determination.

Finally, the committees will continue their proceedings behind closed doors tonight and will present the results of those proceedings tomorrow at the general session. We point out that, according to Palestinian sources here at the Palais des Nations, PNC proceedings will continue until Friday, 27 September.

Abu-Sharif Urges Delegation Be Formed

LD2609110891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has urged that the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations be accelerated. The issue of ending the Israeli occupation is more urgent and more central than any other, he stated.

In a written address distributed to the press in Algiers yesterday evening, Abu-Sharif said that the proposal of convening a peace conference on the basis of the UN resolutions and under the slogan of land for peace is a practical and vital proposal for ending the Israeli occupation.

He added: The interests of the international community, and the United States in particular, have coincided and united with the principle of finding a solution for the Middle East problem on the basis of international legitimacy's resolutions.

He then pointed out that the general international atmosphere and the commitment of the U.S. Administration to the establishment of peace and stability in the region may not, in the end, allow the Israeli Government any scope for intransigence or insistence on holding the land and settling it.

Abu-Sharif emphasized that the adoption of a firm policy and the struggle to stop the construction of Israeli settlements and their expansion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are a necessary preliminary step for beginning

the negotiations. In this connection, stopping the construction and expansion of the settlements in East Jerusalem would constitute a confirmation and proof that East Jerusalem is an integrated part of the occupied territories. This would also help the search for a solution, one acceptable to the Palestinian side, to the complications of forming the Palestinian delegation.

Abu-Sharif then said that the Palestinian delegation negotiating with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has Yasir 'Arafat's authorization in writing. The indirect role of the PLO has thus at this moment realistically and practically become a direct role. Abu-Sharif went on to say that he therefore considers that the hesitation in forming the Palestinian delegation gives Israel an opportunity to distort the facts and to portray the Palestinians as an obstacle to peace.

Committee Formed To Mediate DFLP Rift

JN2509173491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Ghassan Abu-Hamad dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] The Political Committee stemming from the Palestine National Council held its first session this morning to prepare the first draft statement to be submitted to the conferees for approval. The meetings of the Political Committee are now closed. Representatives of all Palestinian factions as well as independent PNC members are taking part in these meetings.

Throughout last night there were tense debates among the conferees. A heated debate surfaced between the two wings of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] when Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh began to speak for the DFLP. Commenting on the dispute between the two wings of the DFLP and to contain differences, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh made the following statement:

Out of concern for containing internal differences, the PNC has decided to maintain the previous status of the DFLP's representation within the PNC, representing the two wings equitably. 'Abd-Rabbuh added: In light of the importance of the conference and of the magnitude of the dangers and the current political requirements, we have accepted this formula. In the aftermath of the problems which surfaced yesterday, and in response to a proposal we made, the PNC decided to form a committee to mediate between the two sides and resolve differences before the end of the meetings.

Specialized Committees Formed

LD2509163591 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, 25 Sep (APS)—The Palestine National Council resumed its proceedings today at the Palais des Nations, forming nine [number as received] specialized committees. These are:

The Political Committee; the Organizational and Social Committee; the Military Committee; the Financial and Economic Committee; the Committee for Affairs of the Palestinian Community in Kuwait; the Legal Committee; the Lebanon Committee; and the Education and Culture Committee.

Some committees started work immediately after the announcement of their formation.

'Arafat Adviser Supports Peace Conference

AU2609104391 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 26 Sep 91 p 12

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Monika Borgmann in Algiers; date not given: "Only Romantic Dreamers Are Still Rejecting Peace"]

[Text] [Borgmann] You have said that the future of the Palestinians will be decided at this meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Why?

[Abu-Sharif] At this PNC meeting two topics will be discussed above all. First, we will take stock of our political achievements over the past years and discuss the latest developments as regards the peace process, and second, we will deal with ourselves. We must elect a new leadership, a new Executive Committee, and a new Central Council. I hope—and I am rather optimistic—that we will arrive at a clear, common standpoint that advocates the participation of the Palestinians in the peace process and on the basis of which the new Executive Committee can make its further decisions. And I hope—and I am rather enthusiastic in this respect—that a new leadership under Yasir 'Arafat will be elected, a leadership that is self-confident and politically realistic enough to lead the Palestinians in the coming delicate and sensitive period.

[Borgmann] Some time ago you said that the PLO needs new blood.

[Abu-Sharif] This is exactly what I mean when I say that a new leadership under 'Arafat will be elected to support him in the coming developments. We want change. The Gulf war was the last straw. It helped us to formulate this demand quite clearly. We want change because we need new blood in our political leadership. Yasir 'Arafat has become a symbol—the symbol of our national independence. He represents the national identity of the Palestinian people. When I speak of change I exclude Yasir 'Arafat. Today, however, there is a very strong movement in the PLO that advocates the idea of providing the PLO leadership with new blood so as to support 'Arafat in his decisions. The question is not yes or no to Yasir 'Arafat. The question is far more profound. The Palestinians realize that today there are new conditions, and we need experienced and pragmatic people in the lead. We have problems with our bureaucracy. The PLO machine is as big as a state apparatus and needs to be revised. Part of this machine has become rusty. Only in

cooperation with Yasir 'Arafat, however, can we set the machine in motion again. Therefore, some people in the PLO are of the opinion that 'Arafat should be freed of those persons who are a burden to him and prevent him from making correct decisions.

[Borgmann] Who will be elected to the new leadership?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not have any lists of names here, but I can give you the factors that will play a role: They must be young, they must be politically certain, and they must be capable of using their knowledge and energy in the struggle for independence of the Palestinian people.

[Borgmann] Do you believe that the Palestinians will participate in the peace process?

[Abu-Sharif] This question will be discussed at the PNC meeting. If you ask me personally, that is, as a member of the PNC, then I believe that the majority is for participation in the peace process. However, the final result will depend on the elections.

[Borgmann] What will happen? Over the weekend [21-22 September] 'Arafat stated that the letter from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which he sent the PLO via Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, is a positive sign but is not yet sufficient.

[Abu-Sharif] This question is being discussed now, and after the discussion the PNC will vote democratically on this issue. I believe, however, that the PNC will be persuaded that participation in the peace process and in the peace conference is in the interest of the Palestinian people—on the basis of the statement made by U.S. President George Bush at Congress last March. I am not revealing any secrets if I tell you that there is opposition within the PLO against participating in the peace conference and accordingly also does not appreciate the U.S. efforts. Just like the Israelis, we also have our extremists, but we will argue with them during these days. I hope that the majority of our parliament will decide in favor of our line. Normally the PNC formulates general guidelines and not details, and then orders the new Executive Committee to act in accordance with these guidelines. This means that our new Executive Committee will continue negotiations with the United States. Regarding the details in Baker's letter, the Palestinians have the right to negotiate the best conditions for their participation in the conference.

[Borgmann] What do you, personally, think about Baker's letter?

[Abu-Sharif] I think that President Bush and Secretary of State Baker are seriously trying to enforce UN Resolutions 242 and 338. And I think that this peace process cannot be stopped anymore. For us it is now more than important to participate in this process. The current developments may provoke further developments, which might perhaps lead toward the self-determination of the Palestinian people. I do not think that the era in which we live now permits continued occupation and, in my view, Shamir has a very limited point of view in this issue. He simply does not realize what is currently going on in the world. I personally hope that politicians with such a narrow view—be they Israeli or Palestinian—will soon disappear from the political stage.

[Borgmann] Who rejects the peace process on the Palestinian side?

[Abu-Sharif] There is a group of opposition members who reject the peace process and oppose any efforts to find a solution to the conflict. These are persons who continue to stick to their romantic dreams about reality in the Middle East.

[Borgmann] How strong is this group?

[Abu-Sharif] This is not quite clear. At the last PNC meeting they had about 13 percent of the vote. At this PNC meeting, there might be more because the frustrations and disappointments have grown. I personally am of the opinion that we must participate in the peace process, and we should seriously cooperate with Jordan and enter in negotiations to end the Israeli occupation.

[Borgmann] Do you insist on further U.S. guarantees?

[Abu-Sharif] The only thing that counts for me is that the occupation will end. Afterward the Palestinians themselves will have to choose. They will get their right to self-determination, they will elect a new political leadership, and they will build their own state. The end of the occupation is the decisive issue for me. I support President Bush and Secretary of State Baker unconditionally, as long as they are aiming at enforcing the UN resolutions and at ending the occupation.

[Borgmann] And what will happen to Jerusalem?

[Abu-Sharif] East Jerusalem is occupied. Or course, one must negotiate on the status of Jerusalem later on, but the fact that East Jerusalem is occupied at the moment is nonnegotiable.

OPEC Affairs

More on Ministerial Monitoring Committee Meeting

Iraqi, Iranian Oil Ministers Confer

JN2509203391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Geneva, 25 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has met with Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

During the meeting, they discussed the topics under discussion at meetings of the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee, including issues related to the OPEC production ceiling, effecting a balance between supply and demand in the international oil market, and OPEC oil prices.

The two ministers are taking part in the committee meetings which are expected to be concluded later tonight.

Iraqi Oil Minister Departs Geneva

JN2509204291 Baghdad INA in English 1625 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Geneva, Sep 25, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti today left Geneva for Iraq after attending a meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee scheduled to be concluded this evening.

It is expected that the OPEC will decide to raise the ceiling of the oil output from 22.3 to 23.68 or 24 million barrels per day while the OPEC current virtual production is 23.5 million barrels per day.

Algeria

Assembly To Hold Extraordinary Session 28 Sep

LD2509114691 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, 25 Sep 91 (APS)—The extraordinary session of the People's National Assembly (APN) will start next Saturday.

The head of government, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, asked the APN on 18 September to hold an extraordinary session in order to examine amendments brought by the government to the electoral law and to the division into constituencies.

Socialist Forces Head Views Election Prospects

PM2509142291 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 23 Sep 91 p 2

[Interview with Socialist Forces Front leader Hocine Ait-Ahmed by Letizia Paolozzi; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] Bologna—[introductory passage omitted] [Paolozzi] Mr. Ait-Ahmed, has the postponement of the general elections (scheduled for June) set back the chances of real pluralism in Algeria?

[Ait-Ahmed] I never believed in the FLN's [National Liberation Front] democratic will. Yet again elections have been imposed by the government, which, moreover, drew up the electoral arrangements without the political parties' involvement. This happened previously with the 1990 municipal elections in which my party did not take part. They were a facade intended for the use and consumption of the single party, which does not intend to relinquish practices tested over a period of decades.

[Paolozzi] The former single party refuses to relinquish its hegemony. But who led the bloody revolt of October 1988, savagely repressed by the army? Who organized this year's violent demonstrations—the single party or the muezzin of the mosques?

[Ait-Ahmed] I believe that the blame lies not only with the fundamentalism of the FIS [Islamic Welfare Front], but also with the FLN. The single party heavily emphasized that it was necessary at last to hold "clean and honest" general elections. This means that the previous elections were not clean and honest but unjust. And rigged. We still do not know the date of the elections. They should be held before the end of the year. If we reckon that the state of emergency declared 5 June will last through 5 October, is it possible to imagine such a short and hurried election campaign?

[Paolozzi] Was the state of emergency necessary?

[Ait-Ahmed] No. If you are referring to public order, well, order could have been maintained without resorting to the army. The response to the FIS should have been a political one. As for the 1988 revolt, the police definitely manipulated it. Consequently thousands of people were shot, massacred.

[Paolozzi] The creation of a press code that resembles a penal code; the expulsion (this spring) of LE MONDE's correspondent; the obscurantist way in which the Arabic language has been imposed, as though Tamazirt, the Berber language, were not a major part of Algerian culture—are all these concessions to the fundamentalists for the sake of maintaining power?

[Ait-Ahmed] The FLN has always used Islam in politics.

[Paolozzi] Do you mean that the imams ultimately favor the FLN, which has built a convenient opposition for itself so as to attract the votes of the democrats worried about an Islamic "dictatorship"?

[Ait-Ahmed] Of course. The FLN is responsible for the introduction into Algeria's first constitution of the article that makes Islam the state religion. Arab-Islamic ideology has always used mosques as forums for political propaganda. The so-called grand reforms and the industrial, agrarian, and cultural revolutions all traveled that route.

[Paolozzi] Do you believe that the problem lies in the link between the mosques and the state?

[Ait-Ahmed] Even after the new constitution, adopted 4 February 1989, promised a multiparty system, the media only gave space to two parties—the FLN and the FIS. And the media are controlled by the government. The press and television have vastly increased people's fears, both internally and internationally. We have been ignored, while attention has centered on the fundamentalists' street demonstrations.

[Paolozzi] So is the objective of pluralism pure fiction?

[Ait-Ahmed] The fact that pluralism was merely cosmetic is confirmed by the events of June. The FIS caused the explosion of demonstrations, but it was allowed to organize them. These were the concessions—that nobody would stop attacks on people, schools, and cultural centers. The escalation of violence seemed to have been planned.

[Paolozzi] Planned with the aim of preventing the elections?

[Ait-Ahmed] And of toppling Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche to replace him with the representative of another clan. The dominant feature of politics in Algeria is the struggle between clans. The FLN hides behind its bureaucracy to conceal its fra*ing from foreign observers.

[Paolozzi] Did the FLN not renew itself, purge itself, by eliminating 16,900 of the 18,000 people wanting to stand in the elections?

[Ait-Ahmed] Our paradox is that the former single party is trying to remain the single party by reaching agreements with its nomenklatura. Through the new constitution the FLN has undergone a face-lift, acquiring an image, a reputation different from the archaic one that characterized it for decades.

[Paolozzi] But there is the social question, too. The fundamentalists of the FIS are exploiting it. It is their perfect environment.

[Ait-Ahmed] That is true. There is a housing shortage. The unemployment rate is 23 percent. The foreign debt is $25 billion. However, the FIS does not have a political organization that would enable it to take power.

[Paolozzi] Even after the FIS' victory (56 percent) in the 1990 elections?

[Ait-Ahmed] On that occasion many people voted for the fundamentalist movement only as a reaction against the FLN, which wrongly assumed that it had written an electoral law that favored itself. Instead, it turned against it. The FIS is definitely benefiting from the economic failures and from a total lack of involvement, whereby, in the absence of forums or media in which to speak out, the only option was, and remains, the mosques, where the FIS people rail against the corruptness of the government and of western modernity.

[Paolozzi] Following the Gulf war is there not a danger of the Arabs' being humiliated and insulted by the world?

[Ait-Ahmed] There needs to be a less unjust kind of interdependence. In view of the new situation in the Eastern countries, I call for the creation of a community that does not benefit those countries alone. Solidarity must not neglect us and stop north of the Mediterranean. It is a mistake to talk about the South in abstract terms.

[Paolozzi] What do you expect will happen in the elections; when will they be held?

[Ait-Ahmed] I will not make any predictions, but these extraordinary Algerian masses that have won a war and gained their independence must not lose the peace.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Comments on Peace Process

PM2509111891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Matar] Let us begin with the peace process. What point has it reached and what, in your view, is the general atmosphere?

[Musa] The peace process is at a very active stage of consultations, contacts, and drafting. We hope the process will begin in earnest in October, as intended months ago.

[Matar] Will it begin in October? We have heard that it will begin in November.

[Musa] We hope so. A November date would not be a postponement. When we say October, it does not necessarily mean a specific date in October. There is no difference between 31 October and 1 November. What is important is that the negotiations begin on the target date or thereabout. Why? Because it is in everyone's interest that the negotiations and the peace process begin quickly and that no time be wasted in postponements and obstructions, particularly because any obstruction of the peace process would be in the interest of the settlements process, would reinforce the seizure of territory, and so forth. So, it would be better to start the peace process today rather than tomorrow.

[Matar] But the obvious differences are not encouraging with regard to meeting the target date.

[Musa] Of course there are still differences. This is no easy matter. It is a complex process, but there must be a start, and it should come about through the determination of all parties and through the intensive efforts of the United States in particular. We hope that this will indeed lead to the start of the peace process soon.

[Matar] The main obstacles are Palestinian. The [Palestine] National Council [PNC] is today discussing the peace process. What are your expectations?

[Musa] We hope that the PNC will take the peace process most seriously, on the basis of its necessity and on the basis of the definite Arab interest in ending Israel's occupation of Arab territory and the settlements process and in fulfilling the Palestinian people's rights.

[Matar] The Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] have rejected the peace process on the present terms.

[Musa] We hear every view expressed by any party, particularly because there are some leaderships on the other side—that is, the Israeli side—who are opposed to the peace process. What is important is the final decision of the majority of the political trends, in other words, the main Israeli trend and the main Palestinian trend. I am confident that the main trends on both sides support the peace process.

[Matar] Do you believe that the PNC might agree to a peace conference?

[Musa] We hope so, God willing.

[Matar] Some Palestinian tendencies—even those around Yasir 'Arafat—are not optimistic.

[Musa] There are many who are not optimistic. Experience makes some people suspicious, particularly in view of the continuing settlement activity and the inappropriate Israeli statements. In our view, however, the peace

process remains a major process and should be given a full, full, chance before we pass judgement.

[Matar] How could the Palestinians, the PNC, and the PLO agree to the peace process without the PLO or the Palestinians outside the occupied territory having anything to do with it?

[Musa] The matter should not be viewed from that angle. It should be viewed from the more general angle. It is a process to end the Israeli occupation and it is a matter that concerns all the Palestinian people, both inside and outside, leaders and people, popular trends, and different organizations and views. The peace process concerns the PLO as well as the entire Palestinian people.

Furthermore, we should look ahead, and not view the situation within a certain circumstantial framework. [passage omitted]

Views Israeli Settlements Issue

PM2509103091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by unidentified correspondent in New York on 22 September]

[Text] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How would you assess the Palestinian position on Washington's attempts to convene the peace conference? Why do some Palestinian leaders consider the U.S. assurances inadequate?

[Musa] That is a matter that concerns them, and they are currently studying it. Obviously they want the largest possible number of assurances in certain forms. But the matter is still at the stage of coordinated consultations before the conference is convened. The U.S. assurances are an important element in boosting moves toward the peace process. Numerous statements have been issued on that subject, but the important thing is what is taking place within the framework of consultations—not the public statements.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] The Israelis say that they have in fact complied with Resolution 242 by returning Sinai to Egypt, and that they are not compelled to return any territory to the Palestinians, Syria, or Jordan. What is your comment?

[Musa] No, no. That is untrue. Resolution 242 addresses all the fronts, including the West Bank and Gaza—the West Bank including East Jerusalem—and the Golan, too. That position is unsound and illegal. Resolution 242 does not concern Sinai alone, but concerns all the territories occupied on 5 June 1967.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How will the Arabs and Washington respond to this procrastination in the next stage of endeavors?

[Musa] There is a recognized, standardized [muqannan] world interpretation on which the views of the entire world agree, and this will be the basis. The basis is Resolution 242, in its meaning and indeed its text, that is, the inadmissibility of seizing territories by war. The resolution referred not to the seizure of Sinai by war, but to all the territories occupied. So the Israeli position here is unacceptable.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] The Israelis and their supporters say that President Bush's linkage of the freeze on settlements to the conference and Baker's notification to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that Washington approves of Damascus' demand for the return of the Golan to Syrian sovereignty undermine the Israeli position on the eve of the conference. What is your comment?

[Musa] The important thing is that the U.S. position is that the Golan is an occupied territory. Our position and the entire international position is that the Golan is an occupied territory. So it must be returned so that peace can be established.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is your opinion of their claim that this undermines their negotiating position at the conference?

[Musa] They must negotiate these matters on the basis of Resolution 242.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Israel is talking about the peace process, but at the same time is still stepping up the building of settlements and the campaign to empty the Arab territory of its owners.

[Musa] We demand an end to the settlement process, because it is harmful to peace, obstructs peace, and could jeopardize the entire peace conference.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] In your view, is this a fixed Israeli position, or can progress in the peace process halt and reverse Israel's settlement policy?

[Musa] We hope that the progress in the peace process will lead to a halting and reversal of Israel's settlement policy.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] According to Baker, Washington is trying to call for negotiations on two axes: Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli. Do you support negotiations on two axes in this form?

[Musa] The Palestinian issue is the crux of the problem in the Middle East, which is why progress on it would affect the other axis positively.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] If the Palestinian side refuses to participate, will the other parties be willing to participate and achieve progress with the other issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Musa] No, no. We hope that that will not happen. The Palestinians' participation is fundamental and of prime importance. I am confident that they will participate in the conference.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Do you expect Washington to issue invitations to the parties to the conflict to attend a peace conference if differences continue over details about convening the conference?

[Musa] I believe that there is still sufficient time to overcome the differences over these details, and the United States is, in fact, making meritorious efforts in this regard. I hope that these efforts will lead to a positive result.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Does that mean that it will not be forced to issue these invitations before an agreement is reached over the details, as some people here speculate?

[Musa] The final agreement on the details will take shape now and within the next four or five weeks.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What if the agreement falters?

[Musa] We hope that it will not falter.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How do you interpret the U.S. President's recent position on the question of financial guarantees to Israel? What are your expectations of the effect of that position on the peace process in the Middle East?

[Musa] We do not interfere in that problem. But the position itself—President Bush's position—is important and will boost the peace process. It is in the interests of the peace process with regard to all the parties.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] But many people are now talking about the U.S. Administration's endeavor to abolish the UN General Assembly resolution of 1975 which equates Zionism with racism. Many people expect President Bush in his speech tomorrow (yesterday) to urge members of the international organizations to abolish the resolution. What will Egypt's position be if Bush makes such a call in his speech?

[Musa] We will deal with such a call then. I cannot reply to something that is still confined to press reports and that has not been announcedofficially.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is your opinion of the Iraqi position on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, especially with regard to the elimination of its destructive weapons, the demarcation of Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, and the return of Kuwaiti prisoners?

[Musa] Our opinion is that Iraq must fully implement all the Security Council resolutions to avoid the problems that might result from its failure to comply with them and also to avoid obstructing progress toward peace. We hope that it will cooperate with the Security Council in order to bolster efforts to improve the Iraqi people's position. With regard to the Kuwaiti prisoners, Iraq undoubtedly ought to return them. This is absolutely essential.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] The Security Council has started its consultations for selecting a new UN secretary general, and the Arab world is following this question with special interest because one of its figures—namely Dr. Butrus Ghali—is among the most notable candidates for the post. Are you optimistic about his chances of winning? What truth is there in the reports that some African states were annoyed at Egypt's entry into that competition?

[Musa] We, God willing, are optimistic about Butrus Ghali's nomination. As for the African states, this is untrue. This is because it is clear that the African states decided on a list of candidates which includes Dr. Butrus Ghali. There should not be any annoyance on the Africans' part because he is the most notable of the African candidates and his election will be the election of an African candidate. We are confident that Dr. Butrus Ghali has all the qualifications required of a secretary general.

Settlements Must Be Addressed Before Conference

NC2509074991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 25 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Concerning the obstacles that Israel is posing for the convocation of a peace conference, the newspaper AL-AHRAM writes: No one has so far been able to understand how Israel's request to the U.S. Administration regarding the extension of approximately $10 million in loan guarantees for settling new immigrants can be separated from the issue of peace or the peace conference in the Middle East.

The paper adds: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been constantly reiterating that the two issues are not linked. He maintains that the loan guarantees are a humanitarian request, but the conference is a political issue. There have been indications that U.S. officials have been expressing similar opinions—probably to motivate Israel to attend the conference. The separation of the two issues, however, is a ploy which does not deceive the average Arab.

The paper concludes: This is a serious matter, and every attempt to belittle the importance of that intransigent stance or to overlook its implications for the occupied territories is an attempt to ignore reality. The argument that the settlement issue can be taken care of during the negotiations within the conference—which could last for years until the status quo is irreversible—amounts to an effort to avoid the most pressing issue. The issue of settlements is a potentially explosive one and should not be resolved by time or the whims of the negotiators.

Bush Request on Resolution 3379 Questioned

NC2609074391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—In its today's issue, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR (?asks) what evidence the United States submitted to the UN General Assembly when President George Bush asked its members to rescind Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism, which was issued in 1975 by overwhelming majority.

The newspaper also asks whether Israel has halted its brutal practices and arbitrary measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories—practices which are no different from those pursued by the apartheid regime in South Africa for 50 years. AL-AKHBAR says that the UN Security Council has issued hundreds of resolutions denouncing Israel's policy and accusing it of instituting apartheid. The seizure of Arab lands, the expulsion of their inhabitants, and the settlement of immigrants in their place all constitute an ugly form of racial discrimination.

The newspaper says that, if Israel's rulers had even slightly modified their measures, which are imbued with racist feelings, the U.S. President would have been justified in his call on the UN General Assembly to annul its resolution. Concluding, AL-AKHBAR asks: On what basis is Bush asking the international community to rescind its decision?

Peace Conference Without Palestinians Rejected

NC2509163791 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 22 Sep 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Two Ideas in the U.S. Court"]

[Text] Members of the U.S. delegation accompanying U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his latest tour touched upon several ideas on the peace process. We note two issues which we consider to be the most serious. First, calling for a peace conference without the Palestinians if they insist on their position on the issues of Jerusalem and an independent Palestinian state. It is well known that the Palestinians want a representative of Arab Jerusalem in the Palestinian negotiating delegation, be it independent or within a Jordanian delegation, so that it will be clear from the outset that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab land. The Palestinians also want the negotiations's result to be the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip even if it would enter into a confederation with Jordan as soon as it is established.

The Palestinians believe that this is the essence of the right to self-determination that the United States seems prepared to recognize for the Palestinians through the hard and long negotiating process that is about to start. The United States agrees that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territory, but, at the same time believes that Jerusalem should remain united and its final future be decided through negotiations. They also refuse to recognize that the right to self-determination entails the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

This, in our assessment, is the crux of the disagreement between the United States and the Palestinians, a disagreement that has not yet been resolved and which has prompted the U.S. side to hint at the possibility of convening the peace conference without Palestinian participation. This idea is rejected by the Arabs because it runs counter to a historic reconciliation that is required between Israel and the Arabs. Any historic reconciliation would be meaningless without solving the Palestinian people's problem and restoring their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination as is generally acknowledged in international law and international precedents.

The second idea floated by the delegation accompanying James Baker in his latest tour is extending invitations to convene the peace conference without waiting for an agreement among the parties on the essence of the negotiating process. This idea might also embarrass the Arab side more than Israel because Israel is interested in direct negotiations rather than in a sound definition of the framework and substance of the negotiations that will preserve Arab rights. The Arab party focuses on defining the framework and substance of the negotiations because that constitutes the first step to preserve the minimum of usurped Arab rights.

Since it is almost impossible to ignore the Palestinians completely, because this would empty the required negotiations process of its substance, the Palestinian side must not rely on that but must seek a solution that brings views closer within a context of utmost possible Arab coordination with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. At the same time, the Arab side should explain its position to both the U.S. and Soviet parties together so that it will not be surprised by an invitation to the conference without defining the framework and goals of the negotiations. Thus, it can be said that these ideas currently circulated in the United States are rejected by the Arabs because they are not in their interests.

Musa Meets Baker, 'Number of Foreign Ministers'

NC2509125991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with U.S. Secretary of States James Baker. Musa told our correspondent in New York that they discussed the situation in the Middle East and the peace conference. He added that the United States will send invitations to the conference soon.

Musa said that he held intensive talks with a number of foreign ministers taking part in the UN General Assembly session, which focused on the Mideast peace process and ways to eliminate the obstacles impeding the

convening of the conference. He stressed that the peace conference will be in the interest of all the parties concerned.

Cairo Reportedly To Supply Lebanon With Weapons

NC2609105191 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Sep 91 p 1, 11

[Text] Cairo, Amin Radwan's dispatch—Reliable sources in Cairo have reported that Egypt has agreed to meet Lebanon's military needs in weapons and military scholarships. Egypt's approval followed Lebanese-Egyptian contacts that were conducted last week. AL-SAFIR has learned that most of the weapons will be used for training and tactical purposes in both defensive and offensive operations. The deal includes armored cars, long- and medium-range artillery, and other types of military equipment.

The sources added that Lebanon is trying to obtain relatively advanced weapons, including flail tanks and some modern explosives produced by the Arab Organization for Industrialization [AOI] and the Egyptian Ministry of War. The sources noted that the first phase of the weapons required by Lebanon cost more than $60 million in the first phase and added that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak instructed the chairman of the AOI board of directors to make special allowance for Lebanon's needs in AOI's production.

The sources expect that AOI will start producing the weapons that Lebanon needs during the first quarter of 1992. The sources went on to say that Egypt will grant Lebanon 120 scholarships in Nasir Military Academy. A number of military personnel have already arrived in Cairo for training courses that will last between four and six months.

The source said that a Lebanese military attache has been appointed at the Lebanese Embassy in Cairo to facilitate coordination between Egypt and Lebanon in all military fields, particularly regarding the Egyptian military experts who will visit Lebanon for training purposes.

Sudan

Government Protests French Secretary's Conduct

EA2509180391 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Sudan on Monday [23 September] protested anew the conduct of French state secretary for humanitarian action, Bernard Kouchner, towards the Sudan. RCC [Revolution Command Council] member and head of peace and external affairs department, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, reiterated the Sudan's stance during a meeting with the French ambassador on Monday. The Sudan had been anticipating establishment of good relations with France, which has clear influence in the African continent, Col. Khalifah told the ambassador.

The RCC member described the conduct of the French minister as strange and harmful for a state like France. Col. Khalifah has said Sudan reserves the right for similar treatment. He explained that the Sudanese Government does not find any reason to agree to a recent request made by Kouchner to visit Sudan. The ambassador, on the spot, admitted that his government finds justification for Sudan's displeasure of the conduct of the French minister, expressing Paris's keenness to making good relations with Sudan.

Military Trials for Coup Suspects To Begin

PM2609083491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Kamal Hamid report: "Thirteen Officers and Civilians To Be Court-Martialed in Sudan"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—The sessions of the military courts formed at the end of last week to try the military elements and civilians accused of taking part in the attempted coup announced last month are expected to begin today, Monday, or tomorrow, Tuesday.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a full list of those to be referred to the courts. It includes four retired military men; namely, Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Halifi, Brigadier Muhammad Ahmad al-Rih, Brigadier Sayyid Hammudah, and Colonel Mustafa Yusuf al-Tanni; and nine who are still in service; namely, Col. Hamad Khalid (tank corps), Col. Yahya Jamal (tank corps), Col. Sha'-al-Din 'Awad al-Karim (paratroops), Col. Fadil Sali Humaydah (signals), Col. 'Abd-al-Karim Tarir (personnel), Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hamadtu (air force), Lt. Col. Khalid Fadl al-Sayyid (paratroops), Lt. Col. Muhammad Sir-al-Khatm (paratroops), and Lt. Col. Hamid al-Tayyib (artillery).

Just two civilians will appear before the courts. They are two Ummah Party leaders; namely, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah Naqdallah and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Jumay'abi.

There has been no information hitherto about whether the courts will examine only the cases of the aforementioned 15 people or whether others will appear before them later, since the scores arrested following the attempt are still in detention and are not included in the list of those to be referred to the courts.

Meanwhile, conditions in Khartoum University have calmed down since the decision to close it was officially implemented yesterday morning. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a decision has been issued dismissing 19 students from the university for a period of a year and forbidding them to enter the student accommodation area. [passage omitted]

Official Comments on UN's Operation Lifeline

EA2509190591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Over 300,000 t [tonnes] of relief supplies have been moved since last January from Port Sudan to the hinterland, said the deputy commissioner-general for relief, Awad Khalifah.

Khalifah said to SUNA that the transportation of relief to the needy areas in the country is continuing. The UFP [expansion unknown] began to hire private sector boats to carry relief materials to Juba along the White Nile from Kosti River Port in implementation of an agreement recently reached by the Sudanese Government and the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya. The Sudanese authorities in observance of their responsibilities towards the citizens are exerting tremendous efforts for the delivery of supplies from Port Sudan to Kosti, he said.

Khalifah affirmed that the rebel movement is still opposing delivery of food relief to the people in southern Sudan as part of the third phase of the UN-sponsored Operation Lifeline Sudan.

*Crackdown on Draft Dodgers in Government Jobs

91P40450A Khartoum AL-INQADH AL-WATANI in Arabic 18 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] The Compulsory Services Administration will undertake a thorough search of all ministries and departments for any person subject to military conscription who has not come forward.

Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad al-'Abbas al-Amin, director of the National Compulsory Services Administration, told AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that the administration is authorized to take severe measures against draft dodgers born between 1964 and 1972. He said that there will be no consideration for employment suitability in government until after one has performed his compulsory service. He also said that priority for employment will be granted to those who have fulfilled the requirements and performed their compulsory duty. Furthermore, he indicated that he will take specific steps against draft dodgers through the Administration of Passports and Visas, making it impossible for them to travel abroad. He said that his agency would levy deterrent penalties, including prison sentences, upon people trying to escape from performing national service.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Comments on Oil Supply Issue

LD2609092991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0335 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, 26 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, is anxious that the developing countries in Asia and Africa will not be harmed by a sudden increase in oil prices or by the taxes that industrial countries levy on oil for one reason or another.

Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, stated this to SPA yesterday evening. He added: "The commitment of the custodian of the two holy mosques was clearly manifested at the beginning of the Gulf crisis when he ordered me immediately to increase production and to speed up its distribution to the markets."

Mr. Nazir said: If it were not for King Fahd's decision and wise approach to raising Saudi production at the right time the whole world would have suffered a severe economic crisis. The developing countries in particular would have suffered a disaster which could have been difficult to get over.

At the end of his statement he said: For this reason Saudi Arabia is anxious to adopt an economic policy which takes into consideration the interests of the developing countries. The strongest proof of this is the fact that the custodian of the two holy mosques has said on many occasions: "If the opportunity for just development is not given to the developing countries by enabling them to obtain oil at suitable prices and if the industrial countries do not stop piling new tax burdens on oil, then the developing countries in Asia and Africa will continue to suffer through no fault of their own."

Fahd Envoy Cited on Moscow Talks

PM2609085891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Sami 'Imarah report: "Prince Bandar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Moscow: Our Support For Soviet Muslims Has Nothing To Do With Politics"]

[Excerpts] Moscow, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan's short visit to Moscow as the envoy of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, attracted great interest from all Soviet official, popular, and media circles. This interest was reflected in the eagerness of head of state Mikhail Gorbachev to receive Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan in his office in the Kremlin on his arrival in Moscow at midday the day before yesterday.

On his meeting with Gorbachev, which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan said in his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the talks dealt with the various issues of cooperation between the two countries in all fields. [passage omitted]

Prince Bandar emphasized that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, takes an interest in the stability of the Soviet Union, because it affects the stability of the entire world. King Fahd, he said, also takes an interest in the Soviet peoples in general and the Islamic peoples in particular. But he pointed out that this interest does not at all mean any interference in Soviet internal affairs.

Prince Bandar said that the kingdom wants nothing except the prosperity of the Islamic peoples in the Soviet Union and respect for their rights and interests, as is the case with the other Soviet peoples. The aim, he added, is to bolster spiritual ties and to assist with the Soviet Muslims' needs. Also to construct mosques, to publish the glorious Koran, to assist with matters connected with Muslims' performance of pilgrimage, to construct clinics, and to grant scholarships to Saudi universities and educational institutions.

With regard to the Soviet Union's stances, Prince Bandar said that no one can forget the Soviet Union's position during the Gulf crisis, its support for legitimacy, and its confrontation of the aggression. [passage omitted]

With regard to reports that Moscow is preparing to receive the largest ever Saudi economic delegation, Prince Bandar said that academician Yevgeney Primakov, President Gorbachev's special envoy, visited the kingdom accompanied by a large economic delegation representing all establishments and held lengthy talks with the relevant circles. So it will not be strange if a delegation goes to Moscow to return the visit.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT went on to ask about international issues, especially the Middle East and Afghanistan, which Prince Bandar discussed in his talks with President Gorbachev and the many Soviet officials with whom he met. He said that since assuming power in 1985 President Gorbachev has moved positively in the various directions. And he has pursued with his comrade, Eduard Shevardnadze, a foreign policy governed by reason and logic for the sake of serving world peace—which was bound to lead to positive and logical results.

With regard to Soviet thinking about the Middle East and Afghanistan, Prince Bandar said that it is logical and wise and in line with the interests of the peoples of the Middle East region and of Afghanistan.

Prince Bandar expressed his optimism about the efforts being made by all diplomatic circles in connection with these two issues, emphasizing that the Arab parties have done all they can for the sake of achieving peace. He expressed his hope that a settlement based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 would be reached. [passage omitted]

Officials Protest Behavior of UN Inspector

More on 'Aziz 24 Sep Briefing

JN2509151591 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 25, INA—Iraq on Tuesday said that the American head of a visiting UN inspection team was a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer and affirmed that Iraq would not allow international inspection teams to go beyond the missions prescribed for them by the UN to indulge in intelligence activities.

Iraq's deputy premier, Mr Tariq 'Aziz told a press conference here that the chief of the team, David Kay, was lying by claiming that he and his team were held at the site they visited on Tuesday by Iraqi authorities.

Mr 'Aziz said, "There is now in Iraq an investigation team headed by an American called Mr David Kay. Our information is that this man is a CIA officer. He is the same man who created the trouble, the famous episode in June."

He added that "several investigation teams visited Iraq in the past, before and after his (Kay) visits. No problems arose during their stay. There were, sometimes, small obstacles, some minor misunderstandings, but they were all resolved quietly and the work of these investigation teams went on smoothly. You might have heard their statements after each visit."

But each time this man (Kay) came to Baghdad, there was a problem created and fabricated by him intentionally. There was last week an atomic investigation team; it was working smoothly and normally. It ended its work without any problem, Mr 'Aziz said.

"We were told that there is a new team coming, without schedule, headed by this man (Kay). It was a big team. They came the day before yesterday, and yesterday morning. They left for a building opposite al-Rashid Hotel. They were shown all the material that was in the building. There were documents relating to activities in which he is interested.

"He was given full access to those documents. He took photos, and there was no problem on our side. He wanted to take the documents and he and his men took several boxes of these documents and put them in their cars.

"Our people told them that if you want to take these documents, such documents have to be documented there should be a list in which each documents has to be specified. And then the two sides the Iraqi side and the representative of the investigation team have to sign on the document about the process of handing them to the investigation team."

"He did not accept that normal procedure a procedure that was exercised several times before and which is very normal because we would like to have a proof that these are the documents that were delivered by the Iraqi authorities to him. Otherwise, it would be possible that strange, alien documents might be added to the documents and allegations might be made that there was this and that document which actually did not exist among the original documents".

Mr. 'Aziz added that "after an episode of more than 13 or 14 hours, of calls to New York and Rambo-like shows, he accepted to leave the building and accepted that procedure, the normal and natural procedure, that had to be accepted from the very beginning if he had good will and good faith. Then our people registered all the documents and took them to his residence in the Meridian Hotel at around 2:30 (local time) this morning, and they (the documents) were handed over to him and his colleagues. A joint statement, or a joint document, was signed by both sides, (asserting) that he received the material he wanted to receive the day before. But (this was done only) after the fuss he made yesterday."

Mr. 'Aziz further said, "This morning, he went to a second building in the city. He was given full access to the material there. But the material in this building has nothing to do with the job he has come to investigate. The materials, the papers and documents in that building are documents of personnel. They are the papers of the Personnel Section in the Iraq Atomic Organisation for Peaceful Purposes. They include names of people, their salaries, their promotion, their leaves, sick-leaves, etc. So what has the United Nations Security Council to do with such information? We allowed them to have full access to these papers, to see what they really are. But he (Kay) insisted to take them, and he insisted to photo most of these papers".

He added, "Our people told them: This is none of your business, this is irrelevant to your mission. You have seen what they are and that is enough. You got to leave the papers and photos where they are. The United Nations is not interested, according to the letter and the spirit of the Security Council resolution, in the names of the people who are involved in these activities.

"The United Nations is interested in the activities themselves, in the equipment, in the industrial things which are related to the several projects they investigated and saw in the past. Why should they know x, y, z and c who are working? This is an espionage matter, it has nothing to do with the United Nations business, it is a CIA business.

"This man wants to collect information about the people who work in these projects not for the purposes of the United Nations, but for the purposes for the agency he serves, the CIA. And such information would be automatically passed to the Mosad (Israeli Secret Service) in order to terrorize the people who are working in these projects and their families and threaten their lives. This we are not going to allow".

Mr 'Aziz said, "I was watching the CNN TV network, and saw him (Kay) talking to the centre there, telling

them that the Iraqi authorities 'have kept me in this building and they don't allow me to leave'. This is a lie, this is a flagrant lie. We did not keep him there in that building against his will. He wanted to go to that building, and he stayed there. We gave him full access to all the documents that he wanted to see, and he saw them. But we simply told him that you have no right to photo them because they are irrelevant to your mission, your act is illegal, and it has no base as far as Security Council resolutions are concerned.

"Our people talked to him (Kay), discussed this matter with him at length, but he insists on taking the papers, and he is making a fuss there in that building".

Addressing the reporters attending the press conference, Mr 'Aziz said, "you have been taken to that building with the minister of state for foreign affairs (on Tuesday). You have seen the papers, and you have seen that they are personnel papers. They have nothing to do with technical aspects of the matters the investigation teams are interested in".

Mr 'Aziz was referring to a tour organised for foreign and local reporters to the site of the building where the documents are kept to show them the said papers.

"This question is clear to us. We know why this fuss is being fabricated by this American official. It is being used as a justification for continuing the aggressive American policy against Iraq, it is being used as a false, wicked justification to justify the continuation of the criminal embargo against the people of Iraq".

Mr 'Aziz said that "in June, there was a strong regional and international pressure on the American Administration for its policy of continuing the imposition of the embargo on Iraq. They used that fuss and that episode which was created by the CIA man, David Kay, to justify the continuation of the sanctions and to justify any plans and aggressive schemes against the people of Iraq.

"Now it is being used for the same purpose. Yesterday, the President of the United States was expected to address the General Assembly. He postponed his statement for a while, waiting for the story (Kay's allegation) to flare up in Baghdad. And when he (Bush) got the news from his man in Baghdad (Kay), he (Bush) added one or two phrases to his statement (in the UN General Assembly) to give it some new ammunition. And the result is using that as a justification to continue the criminal and aggressive American policy against the Iraqi people, mainly in the field of imposing the unjust and criminal sanctions against the Iraqis".

Answering a question on using helicopters by UN teams, the deputy premier said, "the last position of our government in this regard was that we are ready to allow the UN teams to use the German helicopters. Although we made it clear that we are ready to provide our choppers for such missions, they refused (a stand) which is unreasonable and illogical. If they need choppers for their normal travelling, for their normal investigation activities, what is the difference between this or that helicopter? Actually, we were ready to provide the few American-made helicopters which we have for those teams. They insisted on using their own helicopters which were provided by the German Government. We said, that is OK if you want to use these helicopters, but for what purpose? They told us that they had told us before that they want to go to some far places in the western part of Iraq. We said, okay, you can put your helicopters in al-Habbaniyah airfield, use them westwards and you have all the freedom to go to the western parts of Iraq and fly there. But before that, the helicopters have to be checked by Iraqi authorities. They would like to be sure that they do not carry weapons, they do not carry instruments of espionage. And we told them that they should not come near to Baghdad and the suburbs of Baghdad, which was not in their plan in the past".

Mr. 'Aziz said that the UN teams can use the helicopters as they wish, but the helicopters should stay in al-Habbaniyah airfield from where the teams can fly to the western parts of Iraq freely. He added that an Iraqi official or more should accompany each mission in the helicopter during the flight, asserting that these were not conditions but rather prerequisites necessitated by the security of Iraq.

The deputy premier asserted that exactly as the UN teams want to ensure prerequisites for a smooth performance of their job, Iraq needs to be sure that these teams want to use the choppers for quick transportation and not for other dubious purposes "and we have the right to have our doubts". He added the Iraqi demand is an ordinary and legitimate measure put by the Government of Iraq to protect the country's national security.

Answering a question on the goals behind the U.S. hostile stance towards Iraq, Mr. 'Aziz said, "They (U.S. and its allies) want to humiliate the Iraqi people, and they want to subjugate it to their will. But this is not going to happen, we are going to defend our sovereignty and our dignity. We are ready to sacrifice our lives for that."

Mr. 'Aziz said he believed the U.S. and its allies were searching for pretexts to escalate tension in the region which would enable the U.S. and the allies to launch an aggression against Iraq, or at least to give justification to the continuation of the unjust embargo on it. He affirmed that such pretexts lack all convincing bases because Iraq is implementing all UN resolutions and cooperating with all UN inspection teams.

He said Iraq does not accept deeds by this or that person who come among UN team not to implement UN resolutions but to serve other purposes in the interest of his country or the agency he is working for.

The deputy premier added that Iraq will not give in to the whims of Mr Kay or of others, adding that Baghdad is ready to implement in word and spirit the UN Security

Council resolution and that the UN team's chief should do likewise. He said that Mr Kay should respect the mission for which he has been sent to Iraq, and should not add dubious acts which do not serve the UN's basic goals but fall within the interest of the intelligence agency for which he is working.

Mr. 'Aziz said he had told heads of other UN missions that he noted that many Americans were included in UN inspection teams, and the majority of those Americans were working for the CIA. He said that more than 70 per cent of the members of such teams are Americans while there were other countries who are well advanced in the nuclear field like the Soviet Union, China, Brazil, India and others who are practically not represented in these teams.

Mr. 'Aziz said the American President does not hide his intention to topple the legitimate government in Iraq, and such a stance has got nothing to do with UN resolutions.

Responding to a question on Iraq's position on the possibility of sending military planes to accompany UN helicopters in their missions in Iraq, the deputy premier said this is so far a hypothesis because no decision has been taken by the UN in this regard until now. He said Iraq hoped that the Security Council would reach a correct decision in this regard if it wanted the teams to work smoothly.

Mr. 'Aziz added that the prerequisites Iraq is asking for do not contradict the smooth operation of UN inspection teams, adding that Iraq's foreign minister who is in New York now has already informed the chairman of the Security Council that arrangements for the operation of the UN choppers would be discussed between Iraq and a UN delegation in Baghdad through direct contacts.

Following the press conference, this correspondent went to the site where Mr. David Kay and his team were.

I was expecting to see him and his team locked in a room, guarded by soldiers or policemen. But what I saw there was anything but a detention cell. I saw a group of UN staffers joking together in the open air outside a multi-story building opposite Meridian Hotel. With them was Mr. Kay who talked to me and invited me to a breakfast the next morning.

Although Mr. Kay claimed that he was being detained, I saw no soldier, policeman or armed people near the place. I learnt that the Iraqis were only asking Mr. Kay to hand over the documents he had taken illegally from the Iraqi side, but he refused to do so. He told me it was his right to possess these documents.

To back up Mr. Kay's story, another member of the team, also speaking with an American accent, read out for me what he said to be a paragraph of the Security Council Resolution 687 text.

"Allow the special commission, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and UN inspection teams immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records, and means of transportation which they wish to inspect." To my, and other colleagues', astonishment the paragraph in question did not contain any term indicating "the right to possess", but rather the unrestricted "access to," a thing which indicates how mistaken the UN team is.

Hammadi Criticizes Kay's Conduct

JN2509163391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1444 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stated that since 1980, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and Israeli intelligence, the Mosad, have been responsible for assassinating, kidnapping, and framing a number of Iraqi and Arab scientists and technicians working on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The minister noted that the CIA and Mosad followed mean, criminal methods in assassinating, kidnapping, and framing Iraqi and Arab scientists and technicians and their families, both in their own countries and in Europe and the United States with the aim of preventing the Iraqis and Arabs from possessing the means of mastering modern science.

The minister pointed out that the first martyr was the Egyptian scientist Dr. Yahya al-Mashadd, an expert in peaceful nuclear reactor engineering. He was savagely killed in the Hotel Meridien in Paris in 1980. The second martyr was Iraqi engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Rasul, an expert in civil engineering. He was poisoned in Paris in 1980. The third was Dr. Salman Rashid, an expert in electrical engineering who was also poisoned in Geneva, Switzerland in 1981.

The culture and information minister was commenting on the insistence of the sixth inspection team, headed by David Kay, a U.S. citizen, to seize all the personnel files in the Atomic Energy Organization and the Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

The minister said that despite their criminal actions to hamper the Iraqi peaceful nuclear program, the CIA and the Mosad have failed as a result of the honesty, patriotism, steadfastness, and efficiency of the Iraqi experts and technicians, who have proved that they are a source of pride for their country, Iraq, and for every honorable Arab.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi added that the mission of the sixth nuclear inspection team, headed by David Kay, is to conduct acrobatic exercises for media consumption in order to give the U.S. Administration flimsy pretexts to continue its unjust political and media campaign against Iraq. For example, when the Iraqi side organized a visit to a department of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization in Baghdad by the David Kay team last Monday, David

Kay informed a number of journalists at the al-Rashid Hotel opposite the department's building that they should be ready to take videos and pictures of him and his team when they enter the building.

Although the entry into the building through the main gate was normal, since Iraqi specialists accompanied them, David Kay asked some of his companions to climb the building's fence to pose for pictures or videos in order to appear as though the Iraqi side prevented them from entering the building.

The minister went on to say: In addition to these clownish acts, David Kay first chose to refuse to sign a receipt for the documents he wanted—documents that were collected in seven big containers—despite the fact that he is aware of the normal procedures used by inspection teams regarding the preparation and signing of receipts and delivery vouchers, documenting all the material and equipment transferred to the inspection teams. This deliberate failure on his part to sign the documents was prompted by a desire to give the foreign journalists staying at the al-Rashid Hotel a story to write, and also to give President Bush, who was about to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly, a story to use to assail Iraq and its leadership. He also demonstrated tardiness by signing a receipt later to create the false story that the Iraqis have not provided him with other sensitive documents, as he claims.

The minister said: The next day, yesterday, David Kay visited the Personnel Department of the Atomic Energy Organization and the Ministry of Industry and Minerals. This time also, he was accompanied by a number of Iraqi officials. His visit was ordinary and routine. He and his team were allowed to see all files and records. Before the end of the visit, they were surprised by his request to seize a large number of personnel files, and also that he made photocopies of some of them. These are files that contain personal information on employees, the dates of their assignment, salaries, leave, and other information that basically concerns their personal life, and which should be off-limits even to others in the ministry and the organization. David Kay's objective was also to fabricate another story for the media to be used by President Bush's administration in its frenzied efforts to wage aggression against Iraq.

The culture and information minister indicated that it is clear from the activities conducted by the inspection team led by the American David Kay that the purpose behind sending this team, 67 percent of whose membership is American, is purely political and espionage-related. This is because the previous five nuclear teams obtained all the information they wanted regarding the activities of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization, not to mention that these teams made numerous visits to all nuclear installations in Iraq.

Message on Kay Sent to UN

JN2509165791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The United Nations, 25 Sep (INA)—Iraq has strongly protested the conduct of the nuclear inspection team currently in Iraq, particularly the conduct of its leader, David Kay.

This came in a message sent by 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, to French ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, president of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. The following is the text of the protest message:

Upon the instructions of my government, I have the honor to address you, conveying to you the Iraqi Government's protest of the misconduct of the nuclear inspection team currently in Baghdad under David Kay, who exceeded his normal assignment when he photocopied the personnel records of employees working at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, including scientists, and researchers—something that is not part of his job, and that also jeopardizes their personal safety as well as the safety of their families. These files contain details regarding the employees' personal lives, addresses, and other information that have nothing to do with Chapter C of Resolution 687. This conduct by Mr. Kay, his insistence on staying inside the building in which the personal files of employees and researchers are located, and his refusal to hand over the photocopies of the personal files that he illegally seized reflect objectives that go beyond the confines of the UN objectives, and also beyond the confines of the objectives of UNSC resolutions. This conduct obstructs the implementation of the above resolution and harms the ties of cooperation that have existed over the past few months between the competent Iraqi authorities and the other UN inspection teams.

I will be very pleased if you would circulate this message as a document of the Security Council.

Team Said 'Disgusted' at Kay's Conduct

JN2609124491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1209 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—INA has learned from a foreign reporter that some of the members of the inspection team, which comprises 40 members headed by the American, David Kay, have expressed their disgust at the way David Kay has been handling the team's affairs. A member of the team, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the team was hastily put together in Washington and that the team's mission was not clarified to its members.

Another member, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said that David Kay carries with him a satellite telephone device provided to him by the CIA. He also added that some team members are not recognized by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency.

Another foreign reporter had met with a third member of the inspection team, who asserted to him, while in an angry mood, that from now on he will not take part in any such missions because he is concerned about his professional and scientific reputation.

The three members refused to give any television or press interview. They said, however, that they will do so as soon as possible.

Further on 'Disagreement' With Kay

JN2609135791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1322 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—In an exclusive statement to INA, a source stated that a disagreement broke out between the members of the sixth nuclear inspection team and the leader of the team David Kay. The cause of the dispute is Kay's stubbornness and nonprofessional way in which he runs the work of the team.

The source noted that although the members of the team affirmed to Kay yesterday that the documents he obtained have nothing to do with the work of the team and that these documents contained career-related particulars of Iraqi employees that cannot be encroached on, Kay reproached them saying that he agrees that "they have nothing to do with our work, but despite this, we will insist on taking them with us."

The source also reported that the Iraqi side proposed to us that we convince David Kay to allow two-thirds of the members of the 40-strong team to go to their hotels, but that the latter insisted that all members of the team remain detained with him. He also forced them to stay overnight in the bus that took them to the personnel department building affiliated to the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, thereby affecting the health conditions of some of them and subjecting others to unaccustomed humiliation.

The source added that throughout his life he had not had such an experience. We have become hostage to our team head and we think this is a disgraceful drama, he added.

The source emphasized that he had found the Iraqi side to be the opposite of the picture painted by the International Atomic Energy Agency and media in his country.

Workers' Families Denounce Document Confiscation

JN2509154691 Baghdad INA in English 1455 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 25, INA—Families of the employees working in the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization have severely denounced the illegal behaviour exercised by the U.N. inspection team by confiscating documents and papers with no relation to the technical activities defined by the Security Council resolutions.

In a protest demonstration rallied today before the building in which members of the U.N. team reside, the families voiced conclusive rejection to this act which aims at achieving pure spying goals and constitutes a direct threat to lives of the employees in the Iraqi indusrtrial projects and an intimidation to their families and children.

Team Must Give Back Documents

CM2609111991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1825 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn today met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the New York headquarters of the United Nations.

Ahmad Husayn told INA that he discussed with the secretary general the tragic conditions of the Iraqi people resulting from the continued unfair economic blockade.

He added that he also discussed with Mr. Perez de Cuellar the recent excesses committed by the inspection team led by David Kay.

Following the meeting, Ahmad Husayn told journalists that Iraq is ready to cooperate fully to resolve the inspection team's problem. But the other party must also cooperate, he added.

He also said that Iraq will not allow anyone to take the personnel files of the Iraqi employees—documents that include information about their family life and addresses—because, he said, we believe these documents will end up with the Israeli intelligence service, who will then liquidate these employees.

The foreign minister said: If the UN Security Council and the UN Secretariat wish to resolve the problem, Iraq is prepared to cooperate, but can the Security Council and the Secretariat give a guarantee to protect the lives of those Iraq employees?

He said: None of the UN Security Council resolutions say that personal and family information related to the employees should be given to the inspection teams. The inspection team currently in Baghdad must give the documents back, and afterward they can do whatever they wish.

Ahmad Husayn affirmed that he asked Javier Perez de Cuellar to use his good offices to ensure the good conduct of some inspectors in the future.

Some UN Inspectors Allowed To Return to Hotel

AU2609081391 Paris AFP in English 0810 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Vienna, Sept 26 (AFP)—A few of the 44 U.N. inspectors held for 48 hours in a bus in Iraq, were allowed to return to their hotel on Thursday, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said here.

A spokesman said "several" inspectors had been set free while "the remainder are drawing up an inventory at Iraq's request of the documents they seized relating to the Iraqi nuclear programme."

'Contradictory' Reports on Situation

AU2609093291 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0900 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] There are contradictory reports about the situation of the 44 UN inspectors who are detained in Iraq. While a spokesman of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in Vienna that several of the 44 nuclear experts were permitted to return to their hotel the head of the team, Kay, stated in a satellite telephone conversation with the BBC that the group continues to be held in a parking lot in Baghdad. The team is surrounded by Iraqi soldiers, he said.

[Vienna ORF Teletext in German at 0918 GMT reports that "since it is not quite clear when the BBC interview was made, the IAEA in Vienna is uncertain which information is correct."]

Envoy Says Nation Will Not Accept UN Warnings

JN2609084091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0828 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 26 Sep (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, stressed that if the UN special committee wants good work done, it should find suitable men to lead its inspection teams.

In statements following his meeting at dawn today, Baghdad time, with Jean-Bernard Merimee, the French ambassador and president of the Security Council, Mr. al-Anbari said the conduct of the current inspection team chief, David Kay, caused problems. By creating these problems, he wants them to coincide with the deliberations of the UN General Assembly, with the purpose of impeding removal of the unjust economic blockade against the Iraqi people.

He said David Kay is the only team leader who deliberately makes trouble. The solution, he said, is that the inspectors should behave in a good manner.

Asked by one of the journalists whether he received any warnings from the Security Council president, Dr. al-Anbari said: I will not accept any warning and I will respond to one as soon as I hear one.

UN Special Committee Head Invited To Visit

JN2609122991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 26 Sep (INA)—Iraq last night invited Rolf Ekeus head of the Special Committee to visit Baghdad within 48 hours.

This came in an official letter conveyed by the Iraqi mission at the United Nations to the UN Security Council president.

According to the INA correspondent in New York, the letter asked that Ekeus travel to Baghdad to discuss with Iraqi authorities the details of the helicopter flights as well as the problem of the documents related to personal and family particulars of Iraqi personnel held illegally by the inspection team.

'Mammoth Popular Anger' Throughout Country

JN2609110491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1038 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Mammoth popular anger spread throughout Iraq today in condemnation of ongoing U.S. attempts to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs; to use UN inspection teams to spy on Iraq; to harm the country's sovereignty, steadfastness, and achievements; and to pave the way for a new aggression on Iraqi territory.

The streets and squares of Baghdad and the governorates were full of huge crowds of people who took to the streets in spontaneous marches to express anger, outrage, and denunciation of the suspect U.S. designs to harm Iraq's sovereignty and legitimate right to make scientific progress, to usurp Iraq's national decision, and to impose hegemony on the people of Iraq and their free will.

Proceeding through public squares, the thunderous masses stressed their loyalty to the leader of the victorious march, intelligent knight Saddam Husayn, and their rallying around his leadership in the face of the most vicious American-Atlantic onslaught against any people in the world.

The thousands of marching zealous Iraqis chanted slogans praying long life for great Iraq and its courageous leader Saddam Husayn and death to Iraq's enemies—the criminal Americans, Atlanticists, and Zionists. They raised slogans appealing to the conscience of the world to confront the continuing U.S. aggression against Iraq, to show solidarity with the Iraqi people, to foil the U.S.-Atlantic conspiracy, to put an end to the flagrant U.S. interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and to lift the unjust blockade against the brave Iraqi people.

The masses' thunderous chants condemned the behavior of American David Kay during his inspection of Iraqi installations, which reflects the hegemonistic U.S. mentality and the U.S. Administration's continued desire to humiliate the heroic Iraqi people and harm Iraq's national sovereignty.

Thousands of members of popular and professional organizations who participated in the marches of exploding anger expressed their indignation and anger with the U.S. Administration for its ugly crimes against the Iraqi people. One of the aspects of the crimes was the

confession that they had buried alive Iraqi soldiers in their positions during the aggressive war that the U.S.-Atlantic forces launched against Iraq.

Daily on 'Legitimate Right' To Check Teams

JN2609074791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0628 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says media and political clamor and noise created by the U.S. President and his other murderous allies and agents, using lies and fabrications, will not provide the cover they seek to launch a military attack and maintain the blockade against Iraq.

In its editorial today, the paper underscores Iraq's commitment to the UN resolutions. However, the implementation of these resolutions, it says, has certain regulations and rules. When Iraq shows good faith and cooperates with the teams assigned by the United Nations—knowing, however, that they are American, not UN teams—that does not mean it accepts the deviation of these teams or its individuals.

The paper explains that by this, Iraq practices an unquestionable legitimate right and demonstrates care for its security and sovereignty, contrary to any empty allegations made by this or that member of the inspection teams.

It is a widely known fact, says the paper, that progressing and developing Iraq is not favored by the United States and its allies in the remainder of the colonialist West. They continue to create problems and concoct lies to find excuses and pretexts to carry on with the conspiracy of aggression against Iraq—the conspiracy that has parts yet to be fulfilled. [passage omitted]

Memo to UN Protests 23-24 Sep U.S. Overflights

JN2509203791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1724 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 25 Sep (INA)—Iraq informed the Security Council today that U.S. aircraft are continuing to violate Iraqi airspace. It said that on 23-24 September, U.S. aircraft carried out 32 sorties made up of 16 two-plane formations.

In a memorandum sent to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations said that the aircraft flew at a speeds of 700-800 km per hour and at altitudes of 2 to 7.5 km. The memorandum indicated that the flights centered over the areas of Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, al-'Amadiyah, north of Zakho, and west of Irbil.

The memorandum also stated that on the same day, an American two-plane F-16 formation flew over the al-Faruq airfield at a speed of 500 km per hour and at an altitude of only 100 meters.

On the same day, a warplane violated Iraqi airspace from Kuwait at a speed of 720 km per hour and at an altitude of 6 km. The violation occurred over southwest of Artawi 20 km inside Iraqi territory.

Attack on Saddam's Motorcade Reported

NC2509160491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries continue their jihad operations against the regime's criminal symbol and his henchmen. Criminal Saddam's motorcade came under a hail of bullets when it was driving in the direction of al-'Alam in Tikrit a few days ago. The attack left a number of the regime's mercenaries dead, but criminal Saddam escaped unhurt. The attack, which involved light-caliber weapons, lasted for over half an hour after which our mujahidin group returned safely to base.

The cowardly regime detained a number of old men, women, and children who live in the area to revenge the attack. Optometrist and Brigadier General Karim al-Juburi was subjected to intense torture. Major Hazim Jabarah, Dr. Salman Khalaf, and hundreds of the area's youths were detained. These cowardly measures will not intimidate our people and our rebellious popular forces are lying in wait for anyone who attacks our mujahidin.

Saddam Husayn Article on Prophet's Birthday

JN2509071991 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 91 p 1

[Article by Saddam Husayn on Prophet Muhammad's birthday under the banner headline: "Saddam Husayn Writes on the Birth Anniversary of the Great Prophet: What Lessons Do We Deduce From the Great Birthday of a Potential Prophet"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the birthday of the great prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, what lessons do we deduce from the great birthday of a potential prophet?

I do not wish to take the place of writers and historians in writing about historical aspects related to the birth and the message, although I will draw a few examples from them. I want to concentrate on one specific question: What is the lesson, or what are the lessons we can deduce, this year, from the birth and the message on the occasion of the birthday of the master of all people: Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, God's peace and blessings be upon him?

To start with, we must say that God Almighty did not chose Muhammad to be His prophet at the age of forty. He chose him for that message before that. He may have been chosen when he was only a fetus, or even before that. Consequently, we see that God Almighty took care of Muhammad when he was young, and bestowed on him the qualities He wished to bestow on him, to be added to the qualities Muhammad inherited from that

noble tree. The noble prophet was chosen from the notables of Quraysh and the 'Adnanite Arabs. Bani-Hashim was among those Arabs; and Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah belonged to the family of 'Abd-al-Muttalib, guardian of the Holy Ka'bah and the master of Quraysh.

If we refresh our memory and look deep into the history of prophets and the facts and information related to them, we see that God's care in building new qualities and features and polishing the inherited ones have always gone hand in hand with the qualities and features inherited from the prophets' tree and from their family affiliation.

When we view that lesson, we can clearly see the difference between choosing the leading elite in life, society, and the call—an elite which the people charge with the task of bringing radical and comprehensive change—and the ordinary people; and between the high level of leadership and the levels whose qualifications and responsibilities do not rise to the level of those leaders.

The matter thus becomes clear and enables us to answer the question: Is it the call for change, together with its principles and movement, that is responsible for creating all the qualities of the leaders who lead the faith and assume the task of laying the path that leads to the principal objectives and constructing its pillars and foundations; or does the call create something more and polishes the inherited qualities that need to be polished in order to be put at the service of the objectives of the call?

The example of prophets, whom God purifies and blesses, and in whose hearts He entrenches the quality of faith, together with their inherited qualities, may serve as a suitable general law for us to make certain that we arrive at what we want and secure the path from those who depart from it.

Therefore, we say that no one should be allowed to emerge in the links of leadership in the Ba'th Party or the state if the first part of that law does not apply to him; namely, that he should come from a good origin and be the branch of a tree that bears good fruit and that can stand up against extremely heavy winds. These qualities come before the call in making the people accept—implicitly or frankly, psychologically or practically—that this leadership is more qualified than another leadership. If these qualities are known to the common people, they will accept the call, the principles, and the faith. In addition to the faith, which strengthens these qualities and entrenches their firmness, these qualities will also help the leaders in playing the role of the hero, gallant, and knight in the confrontation in defense of principles. These qualities, together with the faith that reinforces them, play a role in preventing the tremor inside the soul—no matter how violent the confrontation and calamities are—from turning into a defeat inside the soul, or openly, because of the confidence built inside the soul, and because of the conditions of the leadership, which, as a result of exercising a role within the environment of the family, have become an inherited or semi-inherited state of affairs. Thus, it becomes clear to us how to choose, and whom we choose for the role of leadership.

The task of the Islamic call is to change people so that their minds, hearts, behavior, and faith will be in accordance with the call's principles. This is an indispensable task. It is also a great task for the Ba'th to change people's minds, hearts, behavior, and faith along the line of its principles.

However, there is a clear difference between effecting faithful change in the hearts of men along these great principles and the choice of leaders from among the ranks of the faithful.

There are levels of leadership among the ranks of the faithful. There are also conditions and criteria for this choice that tend to be more strict with the increasing responsibilities and the leadership practices. Hence, the party is not obliged to accept within its ranks all those who express a desire to join it, especially if we have to choose ten out of a hundred believers whose level of faith is equivalent to that of the people who are led by the call—the call here is the Ba'th. The party should raise all people, however—men and women, young and old—to a level of faith where they believe that the Ba'th principles are the most deserving when considering the basic pillars of the new society, and that the Ba'th strugglers in the Ba'th leadership are the most worthy of leading the march of jihad and construction in accordance with these principles. Not all the Ba'th supporters who have undergone tests, pain, jihad, and construction are fit to be members; only the elite will have the honor of membership. They will be chosen after long examination in accordance with the bylaws and in the light of their life experience in the fields of jihad and construction. The social and family background of each of them will also be revived and reviewed, and so will his personal ethics and general manners. And we should make sure that the selected ones had themselves chosen Ba'th as the way of leading the nation and fulfilling its great objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism. We should make sure they have no temporary objectives and are not motivated by certain circumstances. We should make sure that these selected members, when they assume leadership, are truly capable in terms of leadership, management, and persuasion. These and other known characteristics of the Ba'thists, such as honesty, courage, and self-confidence, should accompany the qualities brought about by faith in the message.

This was the general method by which Muslims, in early Islam and at certain subsequent stages, chose their leaders and state and party officials—by party I mean the believers leading the Army and the state. It was through adherence to this method that leaders were selected and

hierarchies were set. Continuing conquest of new countries, and nonstop jihad against the threats to the new religion helped this selection process, and drew definite lines and borders for it.

The principles adopted by God Almighty were also adopted by his messengers in their relations with the believers. For example, Moses asked God's permission to seek help from his brother Aaron: "Moses said: O my Lord, expand me my breast; ease my task for me; and remove the impediment from my speech, so they may understand what I say. And give me a minister from my family, Aaron, my brother; add to my strength through him, and make him share my task." [Koranic verse]

Another example is that Prophet Muhammad called on his God to help him through one of two people: 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab or 'Amr Bin-Hisham. Whenever the Prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, saw either of the two, he would say: "God, I pray to you to strengthen Islam by the 'Umar you love more, 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab or 'Amr Bin-Hisham."

So, it is through continuous defense of Islam by sword and argument, through continuing conquests, and through adherence to the principles we have mentioned, that the firm and accurate process to select the high leadership and other leading ranks was assisted. Exceptions to this, especially at times of hardship, were rare, because those in the lead got there only through long history of glorious jihad and steadfastness. When jihad and the liberation of new countries later declined, however, the land of Muslims shrank and the criteria of choosing leaders, in most cases, became theoretical; and personal judgment replaced firm, uncontroversial, and unforgeable standards.

With the appearance of weak people in positions of power, whether through heirship or through endeavors to reach those positions, the gap between the theoretical and actual characteristics of state and society leaders widened and deepened.

In the light of its emergence and the power its principles give to believers, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party proved throughout the stages of its underground struggle that its leaders generally met the conditions of firmness and ability to continue. Indeed, it was that firmness and the resulting models of struggle, especially as manifested in the heroic operation against 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim and the heroic position of the leadership and the Ba'thist strugglers in the al-Mahdawi's court, that helped the party make distinguished gains in the Armed Forces, gains that the Ba'th alone was able to make during its secret activity.

Throughout the party's struggle, the party leadership was in the forefront, performing the most dangerous tasks and serving as a concrete example for strugglers. This was the norm and the law, and any departure from this did not change the main law. An example of this is the leadership's decision, made through the insistence of known comrades in this leadership, to lead, on its own, the two most serious operations at the beginning of the revolution, on the morning of 17 July and the afternoon of 30 July. Only two members of the leadership were excluded from the 17 July operation, and participation in the 30 July operation was on a narrow scale because of the known circumstances. In the revolution's later stages, however, serious tasks were often assigned to the party organs and their extensions, especially the Armed Forces. But there were certain exceptions. Even during the al-Qadisiyah battle, which dragged on for eight years, the Regional Command and the Revolution Command Council [RCC] did not assume the task of supervision and field leadership on the largest scale; the members were not directly involved in the battle, and so they could not be tested and the true judgments could not be made. Generally, the commander in chief and the deputy commander in chief deputized for the leadership to manage and supervise the main battles. An exception to this were the eastern al-Basrah battles in 1982, when the comrade RCC vice chairman and comrade 'Adnan Khayrallah were assigned to open a headquarters in al-Basrah to supervise military operations. The RCC chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces remained in the command's headquarters in Baghdad in anticipation of any danger.

Any militant asset cannot continue to exist if it is not linked with the heat of battle; and engaging in battle gives additional opportunities to enhance jihad and steadfastness. However, many in the party ranks had not gone through such tests. We were denied the opportunity to make sure we had made the right decision when we chose them and gave them our confidence. When the Mother of Battles came—comprehensive, great, with deep meanings, and all the descriptions used to describe it—it required a new level of faith, awareness, and resilience. Some were shaken, but the majority of men stood firm, especially in the Armed Forces, and particularly those who had the chance to become immune through the al-Qadisiyah battle and through the military characteristics and duties which crystallized the qualities of good faith in them. Despite this, we found that when the comrades in the civilian organization engaged in the battle, the bravest men emerged among them. This description—the bravest men—is given to the bravest men among the military mujahidin in the Armed Forces. And some of those who emerged as the bravest in the civilian organization demonstrated honorable steadfastness, which is an object of pride to every heroic mujahid. Their stands were memorable in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Dahuk, and in other Iraqi cities. In light of this example, in light of this lesson deduced from the Prophet's birthday, and in light of this example from the era of the message and its subsequent course, we can understand the great meanings—both the incidental and the deliberate—that resulted, and are still resulting, from the Mother of Battles and all the conspiracies and the unfair economic blockade connected with it, as well as the role it will play in the correct application of the leadership conditions on all levels, including the conditions related

to the founders of the new parties. We can also understand how these meanings improve people's lives.

Hence, all levels of the leadership would have an opportunity to prove their leadership ability and to show the level of their faith and awareness. Those leaders are not only those who passed the test, but also those who came under various pressures that prevented the emergence of their leadership and jihad skills at that moment, and moved them away from the right position—on all levels of life—whether in the society, party, or state organs; whether on the civilian or military levels; and whether on the level of high command or lower levels of command in all departments and activities, including the founders, who will submit requests for new parties, and the parties that have not joined the ranks yet. I say that new opportunities to go through tests will be open for everybody. These opportunities are open even now. He who stands at the end of the line can join those at the front if he wants to do so, and if he supports this desire with faith, awareness, and jihad. Additional burdens are additional tests for everybody to move them away from the path if they do not enhance their faith, awareness, and readiness to make sacrifices. And the criteria of leadership in all its degrees and examples will become clearer. Help only comes from God, the dear and wise. God is great. Let the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 20 September 1991.

Report on Clashes Between Government, 'Clan'

NC2609040191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1720 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Violent clashes occurred in mid-September in al-'Alam area between groups of the al-Jubur clan and government forces. Authorities brought in armored units to crush the clan's resistance.

Officials in Mosul, under the direction of Tahir Tawfiq, adopted strict deterrent measures against the members of the clan. As a result, Dr. Husayn al-Juburi, dean of agriculture at Mosul University, was able to escape to an undisclosed destination. Government authorities adopted similar measures in other areas where the al-Jubur clan resides. Authorities dismissed Engineer Salih al-Juburi who is in charge of rebuilding al-Jumhuriyah Bridge from his post.

Blast Kills, Injures Civilians in Karkuk

NC2609135591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] There has been an explosion, the second in two weeks, in a public bus station in Karkuk. Kurdistan Front sources said that the Front received reports from its headquarters in Kurdistan that a time bomb exploded in the public bus station that runs buses on the Karkuk-al-Sulaymaniyah Highway.

The reports said a number of travelers and drivers were killed or injured. The sources accused the tyrant's organs of complicity in the incident, which is part of a plan to assassinate the Front's activists and foment a civil war. A gasoline tanker exploded north of al-Sulaymaniyah on 2 September, killing 15 people.

Gunfire in Border Area; SAIRI on North Clashes

LD2609114591 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept. 26, IRNA—Sound of gunfire could be clearly heard from inside Iraq in "Shalamcheh", Khuzestan Province, on Iran-Iraq border Wednesday night.

According to Shalamcheh residents the shooting has been going on for the past few nights.

The reason of the shooting is not known but it may be because of the clashes between the Iraqi Muslim militants and the government forces.

Meanwhile the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said Thursday that following the clashes in the city of "Salah al-Din", northern Iraq, the Iraqi Kurdish revolutionary forces are in control of the city.

SAIRI also said that in the clashes 30 Iraqi military and security forces were killed and a number of them were injured. It added that in the aftermath of the people's uprising the situation in the Iraqi province of Kurdistan is tense and chaotic and clashes between the popular forces and the government forces continue.

Interview With Kurdish Workers Party Leader Tas

Vows To Continue Guerrilla Struggle

NC2409154591 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 19 Sep 91 p 11

[First of three-part interview with Nizamettin Tas, alias Botan, Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, military commander of the Botan region, by Ismet G. Imset in northern Iraq "this weekend"]

[Excerpts] [Imset] Over the past months, we can see concentrated PKK activities in Southeastern Turkey. However, there are also serious political developments in Ankara and the upcoming general elections. Would the political changes back in Turkey reflect a change in your own organizational policy? There have been claims that you are planning to slow down your attacks.

[Botan] We have a planned style of activity, determined targets and a struggle with which we will reach those targets. In the coming period, this will be subject to no change other than more concentrated activities. What is the essence of this struggle? It is a continuous guerrilla war, in effect since 1984. And every day, every year, this war is progressing with more experience. In the coming era, we will continue this style of struggle. As some circles have claimed, we will not drop our weapons or reduce the amount of attacks. Just the opposite. It will be

more concentrated and at a higher degree. Especially guerrilla activities will, the fall of this year and next year, be the major issue that we will concentrate on. In order to reach the targets that we have determined, we will put everything into guerrilla activities. But not only this. Somewhat increasing the general resistance along with guerrilla activities and giving more importance to urban organizations is also one of our targets. But what we will give a special importance to, what we will truly concentrate on, will be guerrilla activities.

[Imset] In other words, claims that popular resistance and violence will dominate your activities next year are wrong?

[Botan] We claim that, in the coming period, guerrilla activities are the major way to achieve results. The struggle we have given, up till now has, actually, now come to the stage in which we can obtain results from guerrilla activities. Up till now, we have not really been able to put into practice a form of guerrilla struggle which we wanted or which we are pleased with. We can still not claim we are really totally prepared. However,, it is now that a new, mature and expanded guerrilla struggle throughout the country can be started. We have caught that moment both in way of personnel, leadership, the spreading of guerrilla around the country and in training.

Our training which has been continuing for years has now reached a concentrated level. The administration problem has also been overcome widely. Now we can say that we are settled in all areas and with our center, administration, guerrilla, commanders, popular connections and exploitation of geographical conditions, better organization of obtaining weapons, we are going into a period in which we have certain claims. This is the level our own efforts has brought us to. Meanwhile, there are also the conditions which are ready in Turkey. The administration is in a complete crisis and if there is a change in management, the contradictions will increase. No new administration can immediately establish control and with the economic crisis and price hikes coming one after another, the new administration will be able to give no new hope to the masses.

Each new government will be further isolated from the masses, will have its cover blown and this will increase the popular support for us. Popular support, in this case, could even take a new turn and shift into an armed revolt. Actually, what we want to do in the coming period is to support the popular resistance with guerrilla activities and to convert it to an armed revolt. We are now going towards this target. Because, the government is weak, it is unsuccessful militarily, it is unsuccessful in the economy and in this crisis, the political problems are the greatest. All of these are producing and have led to a period in which we can obtain better results.

[Imset] But your statement appears to contradict with earlier announcements by the PKK that it was open for talks and even considered a ceasefire.

[Botan] Although the main type of activity is based on the guerrilla, and as the party leadership has said earlier, we are not afraid of talks. As we develop the guerrilla, as we give more weight to the guerrilla, the true concession comes from the state. Our success highlights their lack of success in the form of the terror and oppression they put into practice. This terror and oppression becomes useless in face of our activities and this leads to a trend to talk with us. In this way, we could actually achieve political goals in the coming period but we will not be the ones forced to talk with them.

[Imset] Are you open to unconditional talks then?

[Botan] We accept negotiations. However, we will never drop our guns. But on the basis of what I just explained, we are prepared to talk. We do not call for a continuous war. If Turkey abandons its policy based on refusals, if it allows our party to organize, if it sets free all prisoners and if it accepts the freedom of opinion for all, based on these demands we are ready for talks.

[Ismet] What about a ceasefire. Even if you do not drop your weapons, perhaps a ceasefire could be possible?

[Botan] Under the conditions I described, a ceasefire could be possible. We are prepared for talks on those basis and principles. Our developing of the guerrilla would not jeopardize talks. This is why, in the coming period, we are not turning back on such means of struggle. At this moment we are neither afraid of talks nor of ceasefire. But it is Turkey which has refused this and is Turkey which has not abided with a ceasefire. It is Turkey which is conducting the irregular war. [passage omitted]

[Imset] Since no change of policy with regard to the PKK looks forthcoming, what will be the practical side of your so-called guerrilla campaign in the coming days?

[Botan] As you know in January 1991 we offered a general amnesty for the gangs [paramilitary village guards]. This amnesty comes to an end of January 1, 1992 and there have been gangs who abandoned their weapons after our warning. But this has become a matter of prestige and in 1992, the war will be a kind of a war against the gangs. It will be a year to totally eliminate the gangs; a year during which activities specifically concentrating on the village guards will be carried out one after another and this campaign will continue until this system is totally, but totally, eliminated in the region. [passage omitted]

[Imset] Theoretically speaking, you are doing all this for independence and in the camp, I have seen that many of the younger militants want nothing short of that. But there have also been some indications that you could actually take some steps back and go for federal or even political solutions. What is your stance, as a "military commander" on this issue?

[Botan] What you say is also valid in practice. Independence does not necessarily mean a different state. Turkey

at this moment is a state but not totally independent. Is that not true? Is it not dependent? Okay, we do say independence but it does not mean it has to be nothing but an independent state. Just the opposite, we are placing importance on the Middle East revolution and we can act along with whichever state or force in the region with a revolutionary soul. But mainly with Turkey. Recent global changes, the changes in the Soviet Union and situation in Turkey all indicate that the revolution in Turkey's Kurdistan will be integrated. In other words a federative solution is possible. It is always possible.

Views Relations With Syria, Iraq

NC2409164591 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 20 Sep 91 p 11

[Second of three-part interview with Nizamettin Tas, alias Botan, Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, military commander of the Botan region, by Ismet G. Imset in northern Iraq "this weekend"]

[Text] [Imset] Both in the domestic and foreign press, there have been reports recently that the PKK is having problems maintaining its foreign relations and that there are problems specifically with Syria. What are these problems and could you specify your organization's relations with Syria? Also there have been claims that the Syrian's have detained some PKK leaders including Abdullah Ocalan.

[Botan] It could be, it could be. Now, what we know and do not forget is that Syria, since 1980, has tolerated our forces to be trained in Lebanon and to return after their training. In other words, there is no formal permission but there is toleration. It does not even formally recognize us. Actually, in the past decade Syria has arrested hundreds of our friends. There are those who have spent three, four, five and even six months in prisons. Then they were released according to court decisions. In the past years sometimes they prevented us from entering Syria or even detaining everyone and transporting them to Lebanon. All of these have happened.

[Imset] But since you have such relations in Syria why are they doing this?

[Botan] Why? For exactly 10 years we have been staying in Lebanon. Although Syria has some control over Lebanon we have never really sat at a table, negotiated or entered an alliance with Syria. There is only one thing that we are doing in the Middle East and in Syria: We are exploiting the balance between the forces in the region and exploiting their contradictions. That is all. Syria has a claim over Hatay. Syria has a claim to be a leader of the Arab world. Turkey has a similar claim. There are conflicts between Syria and Turkey. There is the conflict over water and there is the conflict over the leadership of the Arab world. There is a conflict between Arab nationalism and Turkish nationalism. There is, again, the Hatay problem. In this, Syria has an anti-imperialist position and relations with the Soviet Union. It has relations with the Palestine issue and all of these are factors which somewhat come between Turkey and Syria. Now, paying attention to these and sometimes exploiting these circumstances, we have maintained our existence. We have no certain alliance with Syria and we have not entered any relationship. Had this been the case, it would have supported us, it would not have arrested us and it would not have blocked our way. There are problems of this kind and they will continue in the future. As far as a disagreement with Syria, we have no agreement in the first place. So, it cannot be severed. We have always had problems but according to our mutual interests we have walked together. This is totally a tactic to exploit the conflict among forces in view of Turkey's and their balances in the Middle East region. And this tactic has been successful.

[Imset] but now that the situation is changing in Lebanon and there is talk of a new world order which includes changes in Syria as well, does your increased presence in Iraq reflect a possible change in alliances?

[Botan] Now, in the period ahead, we will observe Syria's position, step by step. As it approaches imperialism, we are well aware that we will come face to face. And then our settlements there may be effected, they may be subject to foreign intervention. But in the past 10 years we have developed measures against this. Now, Syria and Lebanon are no longer a matter of existence for us. With our center, staff, training means and training camps, we have settled down in Kurdistan. We have settled down in the south (Iraq). We already exist in the north. Because of this it is not very important for us to stay in those territories. What attitude Syria takes will not really effect us in the future. For us, it was important five or 10 years ago and it was a determining factor. But it is no longer a problem. Still we respect friendships. We believe that Syria has abided with its principles both in its anti-imperialist attitude and its stance with regard to Turkey. After this we do not expect a sudden 180 degree turn in this policy. Even if there is a step by step change, we will use Syria in the coming period. For a movement to stay outside (of its country) could be dangerous. Moreover, we do not want to make things more difficult for Syria. We already exist in the country and because of this, we will not permit anything which can create problems for Syria.

[Imset] As for your Iraqi relations, there have been claims, coming from Talabani as well, that you signed a secret agreement with Baghdad three years ago.

[Botan] Saddam is the head of a regime which has massacred 150,000 Kurds and destroyed 4,000 villages. To support such a man cannot be expected, especially not from a Kurdish movement. These allegations are nothing but demagogy. We have never had formal relations with Iraqi regime. No such relations will ever take place. However, when the troops moved out of the border they left behind only a minor force. Iraq also allowed hundreds of people to cross the border to violate the embargo and establish secret trade with Turkey.

Village guards and people were used for this. In these circumstances, our first contact with the Iraqi soldiers took place after the Kuwait crisis, not three years ago as some have claimed baseless. This was after the crisis when what remained of the troops were disarmed. Only 7-8 soldiers were at the stations. Our first relationship with them started in the August 1990. After Kuwait and after the embargo. Our relations with Zakho and the people there started at the same time.... We have since had various clashes with Saddam's troops at the border and we have killed 57 of their soldiers. They have arrested 21 of our friends. There are still 14 comrades in Iraqi prisons. What kind of an alliance could this be? Fourteen comrades in prison. What relationship are they talking about? This is a comedy.

[Imset] You have so many complicated relations that it is difficult for me to follow all of them. Why all of these and what do you intend to do in the future?

[Botan] We are an anti-imperialist movement. Actually our anti-imperialist side always dominates our struggle. We now have one major claim: The Kurdistan revolution will be the center of the Middle East revolution. Even if it isn't for the time being, it will be one in the future. If we, for instance, were in full into the narrow nationalism of other socialist movements. In the past, many movements were doing this. As long as they struggled they were struggled they were friends but after becoming a state, they were cutting relations and placing state interests in front of everything. National interests were coming first and then revolutionary interests were following. This is what is now happening in Vietnam.... This is something we are not doing. As we become stronger what we want to do is to make the Kurdistan revolution an instrument for the liberation of the Middle Eastern people as a whole and not only for the Kurdish people. When this happens we will face all imperialist countries, with the United States coming at top of the list.

[Imset] In Recent months, there have been increased reports of PKK activities other than guerrilla warfare. For instance, the establishment of the Preachers Union in Syria and, more important, the Kurdistan Liberation Party (PAK) in Iraq. Could you tell us what the relationship between PAK and the PKK is?

[Botan] PAK started its activities in 1988. In 1988 there was another defeat in Southern Kurdistan. After this defeat, a handful of revolutionary, intellectual people who believed the defeat was a true betrayal and who challenged the policies of the Iraqi KDP [Democratic Party of Kurdistan] established the PAK. Their roots all go back to the Iraqi KDP. They are mainly from the Soran pact. Figuratively speaking, this was a splinter of not more than 10 people. Some of these, including Dr. Gemsit, contacted us in Iran and based on this contact, we gave them training. For a period of six months they underwent our training. In the period between 1988 and 1990, they conducted concentrated activities in Southern Kurdistan to establish a party and create a revolutionary movement—both theoretically and ideologically. Obviously they were very much under the influence of the PKK. On the issues of independence, global outlook, thought, analysis of people and their look at Kurdistan they are totally united with the PKK but not exactly the PKK as such. The circumstances of the south are different and the style of struggle is also different. The stages of that struggle are also different. I can say that the PAK is a PKK which has developed according to the exclusive circumstances of the south. It is made up totally of Iraqi Kurds but we have an alliance with them and we support them. There is a sympathy between us. They have a sympathy which goes a long way even before the PAK was formally established. Even before that date we had relations. We were here since 1980 and until 1985 we had an alliance with the KDP. In that period we had relations with the people. But in 1988 these relations were severed when the region was evacuated by civilians. After two years, we reestablished relations. Now those relations have been shifted towards the PAK. The PAK has its own efforts as well and because it reflects the interests of the people, it is developing rapidly. In Dahok, for example, they had a rally in which 10,000 participated. The situation is no different in Zakho. In Sulcimania there was a similar meeting and in Shaklava. At this moment there are hundreds of youth joining the PAK.

[Imset] In practice, it is true that PAK militants are also joining you in activities in Turkey?

[Botan] Of course, of course they have guerrilla activities. There are the mountains and there they have their guerrilla camps. We have not joined a front though. But I must say that in some places their grassroots have exceeded the grassroots of the Yekitin (PUK) [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan]. In many places of Batinan and in Soran, they are more than the PUK or KDP. This is a crowded mass. The others have a traditional mass, a force based on tribes, which they are using. They have no effort for the settled but poor masses. They have no meetings and no activity. Only PAK is doing this and no one else. The others will lose and they will lose in a painful way.

Views Policy Regarding U.S. Troops

NC2509090891 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 21 Sep 91 pp 1, 11

[Third and last of three-part interview with Nizamettin Tas, alias Botan, Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, military commander of the Botan region, by Ismet G. Imset in northern Iraq "this weekend"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Imset] There appears to be a contradiction here. On one hand you claim that tourist abductions are a mistake, on the other you warn them. What would happen in practice?

[Botan] We may hold the tourists, that is true. We may hold them, we may keep them as our guests but this is not kidnapping. Just as you cannot enter a country without a

passport, those who come into the region without permission may be questioned or detained for a brief period. You should expect these kind of activities in the future. Why do we want to do this? We are trying to give the message that you have to recognize this country that this country has its owners. Because of this, you should receive permission, not from them but from us. To prove this, we could do a lot of things. We could block the roads and issue threats, we could catch the tourists, interrogate them and set them free. But, we will not target the tourists.

[Imset] Another hostage issue is that of the seven Turkish soldiers you kidnapped from Samanli. There are also reports that you have more hostages.

[Botan] We do. Some of them came later. At this very moment there are hostages taken from around Van in the region. There are captives. Of course we will release the soldiers. However, we are waiting for the best time. The best time for world and Turkish public opinion. Now, with the global changes and the elections coming up, I don't think such a release would have a serious impact. But when we find the time, the best time so that it has an impact, we will realize the release.

[Imset] You have pulled the soldiers out of Harkuk for their personal safety after the Turkish operation. Are they in the north, south or in Syria?

[Botan] They are here in Kurdistan. The north and south makes no difference. But I can assure you that they are not in Lebanon and not in Europe.

[Imset] But the tourists....

[Botan] I repeat, to kidnap those ten tourists was a mistake. We are having problems even here. And now we learn that they (the Bingol Kurdish Workers Party—PKK—group) were living under such comfortable circumstances that they were travelling without hindrance, going from one house to another and even travelling by car. At the same time, the whole area was being searched inside out. Now, we are going to punish whoever did this. Because they have endangered their lives as well as the lives of those tourists. The comrade who did this will be punished. [passage omitted]

[Imset] Coming back to the latest Turkish operation in north Iraq. What do you think triggered this operation and what is your claim of casualties?

[Botan] [passage omitted] Now, what the state is trying to do is this: South Kurdistan is actually combined with the north. In the north we exist. In the south, the movement is developing. The issue of Kurdistan is now becoming a single one.... They are aware that any success in the south will also have an impact on the north. Another thing is that by attacking now and setting up a buffer zone, they are preparing a platform for the invasion of South Kurdistan. This is their true long term target. Mosul, Karkuk and others are part of this target. Iraq may be divided at any moment and with these steps Turkey is trying to create the conditions for a legitimate intervention. Even now they want 10 kilometers of the Iraqi soil. This is their real intention—not to attack or destroy us. [passage omitted]

[Ismet] You said earlier (TURKISH DAILY NEWS—Tuesday, Sep. 17, 1991) that the PKK did not intend to attack U.S. troops or the Silopi camp unless it was directly subject to an American attack. But the U.S. is your enemy?

[Botan] Yes. Because it is staying out of a practical war does not mean they are not in the war or are not collaborators in it.... If we accept the war against Turkey as also a war against its supporters, they (the United States) are already among our targets. But this is not yet at the stage of battling them. We could have hit them here really. We could have hit the troops of the Rapid Reaction Force. They were targets which could have been hit easily.... They are coming here, collecting intelligence, conducting surveillance activities and carrying the injured in their own helicopters.

They are the ones training special warfare experts, they are the ones giving the weapons and money. This shows that they are collaborators to this (war). Although we target imperialism... as long as they do not attack us we will not attack them. This does not come to the meaning that the enmity and conflict between us has come to an end. Even with the Turks, we have something similar. Even now, if Turkey announced a cease fire, we would do so in return. If it ceases its special war we will be ready for negotiations. Because they are escalating this special war, though, we are carrying on with our war.

[Imset] In other words, there is also a factor of retaliation?

[Botan] Our reason for escalating guerrilla war is the oppressive measures and methods of Turkey. It is because they insist on escalating terrorism that we are going to escalate and concentrate our war. The same goes for America. As long as they do not actively intervene, as long as they do not participate in clashes, we will not attack them for now. But, when we reach that level and when we come to the force required, if they do not accept it, we will force them out.... Although the Rapid Force says it is here to save the Iraqi Kurds, where is in situated? In Silopi. Where is Silopi? In northern Kurdistan.... Basically, whatever is said, the Rapid Force is a party to this war.

Shamir Clarifies Settlement Inauguration Remarks

Against Annexing Territories

TA2509193891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir continues to support construction in all vacant areas; he is adamantly opposed, however, to any annexation of the territories.

Israel continues to adhere to the Camp David accords, which stipulate negotiations over the future of the territories.

The Prime Minister's Office today issued this statement following the reports about the prime minister's remarks yesterday at the inauguration of Tzur Yig'al and in the wake of harsh reactions in the United States.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that in consultations held in Jerusalem, it was decided to step up the information campaign in the United States on the loan guarantees, in an attempt to ascertain that Israel receives them next January.

Our correspondent pointed out that up to now the Israeli information machine has not been deployed in an orderly and comprehensive campaign to influence decisionmakers in Washington and U.S. public opinion to understand Jerusalem's position.

Did Not Say Territories 'Are Ours'

TA2609103991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office yesterday sought to correct the harsh impression caused by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements at Tzur Yig'al two days ago, clarifying that the prime minister was misquoted and that his statements did not imply any Israeli intention to annex the territories. The Prime Minister's Office noted that the prime minister remains opposed to the annexation of the territories at this stage due to the commitment Israel took upon itself within the framework of the Camp David accords.

Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, said that the precise wording of the controversial sentence was: "All of our territories, the territories that can be built on, will be populated up to the horizon's edge." Ahime'ir said that, contrary to the reports, Shamir did not say: "All the territories are ours."

Yesterday the Foreign Ministry received many reports from the United States about the harsh impression caused by Shamir's remarks, and many officials said that in their opinion these reactions further reduced Israel's chances of receiving the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption, even in January.

Officials in Jerusalem said yesterday that it is now clear to Israel that there is no chance of getting the guarantees before January and that, in fact, to quote a senior official: "The war is already over." The prevailing opinion in Shamir's inner circle is that Israel will not get the guarantees even in January because of President Bush's intention to link them to a halt to settlement, an intention which Shamir's confidants are increasingly interpreting as an attempt on the part of the U.S. Administration to force Israel back to the 1967 borders.

Olmert—'There Is No Longer a Green Line'

TA2509133891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpts] [Zissowitz] There is no choice but to say that there is no longer a Green Line; that reality will never be part of our lives. That is a quote from Health Minister Ehud Olmert. Good day, sir.

[Olmert] Shalom.

[Zissowitz] Beyond the public debate on the issue itself, I would like to ask you the wisdom of the timing of declaring the death of that border.

[Olmert] I am really surprised by your question. I would like to ask what is the wisdom of doing the opposite and saying it exists? What does it mean when we say the Green Line exists? It means we agree to the possibility of a return to the 1967 borders. Can you imagine such a thing? I am surprised, shocked....[changes thought] We have always....[changes thought] Was there a single Zionist party which said we should return to the 1967 borders? Remind me, maybe I am a little mixed up. For instance, the Labor Party, was it in favor of returning to the 1967 borders? If not, what does it mean? It means that from our viewpoint it no longer exists.

[Zissowitz] If, from our viewpoint it no longer exists, then why do we have to declare it now when only a week ago the prime minister called on his ministers to moderate their statements so as not to aggravate relations with the United States?

[Olmert] I would say you have....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] Misunderstood? Perhaps.

[Olmert] No, why should I say that, since you people always understand everything. That would not occur to me, but I would say that you are not focusing the issue on the right angle about what the prime minister meant to say, on an issue which I would say is the foundation for the consensus in the State of Israel, perhaps the last surviving consensus since 1967. We had many things over which we thought there was a national consensus, but as it happened that was not the case. The point that there is no return to the 1967 borders, I would say, is the firm foundation that has united all streams of opinion in

the State of Israel since 1967. If we cannot say that, then what we are broadcasting is not something easy: We are saying that we favor a total withdrawal. I believe that the fact that yesterday we did not bring up something else that we believe in—settlement everywhere in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el and the unpreparedness to give up territories—shows that we are being extremely flexible. However, to come and talk to us about a return to the 1967 border....[changes thought]

Why take a Likud person? Take a Labor Party member. I would like Mr. Shim'on Peres or Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin to come and say: Yes, we favor a withdrawal to the 1967 borders. I would like to hear that. Over the years I have heard the exact opposite of that. They said: We are not in favor of annexing all the territories. What, however, is the Alon Plan, and what about the plan they used to talk about to remain in the unpopulated areas and return the populated areas? [passage omitted]

The moment that we talk about no return to the 1967 borders or the imposition of Israeli law on parts of the territories, it means that the 1967 borders no longer exist, period. Are we entering into negotiations from the starting point of agreeing to give up everything? Is that how you conduct your affairs? Is that how you conduct negotiations in any field? Even from a practical viewpoint, since the issue was presented to us, we had no choice but to provide that response. I would like matters to be understood. Nobody is looking for a fight with the United States. Thank God, in the 14 years that the Likud has played a central role in government we have had more successes with the United States than Mr. Peres had when he was in power. Therefore, we also do not need his sermonizing and warnings on that. For instance, on U.S. aid. All the years the Alignment was in power aid was given as a loan, which we still have to repay with not insignificant difficulties. When the Likud came to power it managed to transform it from a loan to a grant. Agreements on strategic cooperation were signed during the Likud's term....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] If the situation is so good....

[Olmert] No, there are disputes. We always knew that the Americans support an almost total withdrawal except for minor border adjustments. On that, it is important that it be made clear that our agreement to attend negotiations does not mean our agreement to a total withdrawal. They are two different issues.

[Zissowitz] Was it a political signal yesterday [when a new settlement was inaugurated]?

[Olmert] We did not initiate the conversion of the conference into a sort of spectacular, I would say global, event. We are undoubtedly talking about a settlement which is entirely within the Green Line. I read in today's HA'ARETZ a letter by Nisim Zvili [secretary of the Moshavim Movement] to Shim'on Peres asking what happened to us, the Labor Party, if we also oppose such a settlement. Since there was such an outcry, which to a certain extent was also set off by internal elements here, and suddenly a settlement which is situated entirely within the Green Line becomes an issue for an international controversy....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] That is of course not the point; the remarks by the prime minister, as you yourself said, are the main point.

[Olmert] Excuse me, but that can be said only with hindsight. Even before the prime minister's remarks, however, the entire world was waiting due to the declaration about the setting up of the settlement, which lies entirely within the Green Line. There was therefore no choice but to say, wait, if you think this means that we view the Green Line as a basis for negotiations, then it is essential to let you know: Folks, you should not have the slightest illusion. Of course, there is a national consensus over the Green Line. It is true that we said it. When you enter negotiations it is very important, in my view, for two things to happen. First, that you come in good faith; that is very important, and I am not sure that is the case with the other sides. We are coming in good faith; they should do the same.

[Zissowitz] The United States, at least, does not think we are coming in good faith.

[Olmert] Then we have a dispute with the United States. What is the big panic? I oppose the creation of futile arguments, I oppose inflaming unnecessary rivalry, and I favor searching for any way to reach agreement. I want you to note the following, however, and the United States should also take note, that if it has any intention of supporting a total withdrawal from all the territories to the 1967 borders, to beyond the Green Line, then we will have a very tough dispute with it. There is no way we will reach an agreement with it on that issue because we will use all our force and not agree that the Jordanian border or Palestinian border runs near Qalqilyah. Never, never. That is precisely what we intended to say on that issue. There should not be any misunderstandings about that. There will be negotiations, but for somebody to come and ask us after all these years to return to a border situated 10 km from the sea, then I think we have grown up.

Levi Meets Baker, Says Delegation Not Finalized

TA2509180191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] In their meeting in New York this evening, Foreign Minister David Levi and Secretary of State James Baker did not conclude drafting the letter of U.S. Administration assurances to Israel because of the need to further clarify issues pertaining to the Palestinian representation. After the meeting, our correspondent in New York 'Oded Ben-'Ami spoke to the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] As soon as the two ministers concluded their meeting, a joint U.S.-Israeli working team headed by Ambassador Shoval and the State Department's Dennis Ross began working to finalize the phrasing of the letter of assurances and overcome the

issues still in dispute, or rather misunderstanding, mainly that of the Palestinian representation. Foreign Minister Levi explains:

[Levi] The atmosphere was good, there was a willingness. In the next few days we will continue trying to reach the final crystallization of the issues. I hope that today we made a significant contribution to the advancement of the peace process, which is mainly based—and I repeat—on the principles Israel has always adhered to and which are acceptable to the United States.

[Ben-'Ami] Could you elaborate on what is still in the way of the final draft of this document? What are the points not yet finally agreed on?

[Levi] Primarily, we need to crystallize them. Second, we must see that there are no contradictions. Third, there are things that the secretary still needs to finalize, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, for example.

[Ben-'Ami] Another matter Levi and Baker discussed were the guarantees. It was agreed that the issue will continue to be discussed by the U.S. Administration and Congress.

The issue of rescuing the Jews from Zaire was also broached. The Israeli mission in Kinshasa, Levi said, has already been moved to Congo-Brazzaville.

[Levi] We recently reestablished our relations with Congo-Brazzaville. We moved our men there, and Israel is doing all that should be done. Indeed, as is common in such cases, we are fully coordinated with the United States, just as we did in Ethiopia and other places. We have taken all the necessary steps, and an Israeli plane will bring them back to Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] Later tonight, Minister Levi will meet his German counterpart, Hans-Dietrich Genscher. It is expected that in this meeting Levi will raise Israel's request for German aid for the absorption of the Soviet immigrants. [end recording]

Envoy to U.S. on Letter of Assurances

TA2609063291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to Washington, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Ambassador Shoval.
[Shoval] Good morning.

[Einstein] What is actually holding up the final agreements?
[Shoval] Look, the question is not one of holding things up; this is a very detailed document, which deals with very important issues. We have our positions. We have reached agreement on many things, but there are still matters that must be clarified. We have made progress, but we are not finished yet.

[Einstein] Could you be more specific as to the points of disagreement.
[Shoval] No, I cannot go into detail because first, it would take too much time, and second, both parties agreed that the details will be published only after the documents are finalized. Just as an example, however, there is still a holdup on the issue of the Palestinian delegation, not necessarily because there is a disagreement between Israel and the United States, but because the Jordanians and the Palestinians still have not concluded the matter between themselves or told the Americans what they are proposing. The United States will only be able to brief us after they receive information from the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

[Einstein] Does Israel insist on receiving the list of Palestinian representatives in advance?
[Shoval] It is known that Israel and the United States have agreed that we will not sit down with Palestinian representatives who are unacceptable to us. To know who is acceptable and who is not, we clearly have to have to see the names in advance, and Israel and the United States are in total agreement on this issue.

[Einstein] There have been reports that the type of document we will get—whether it will be a letter of assurances or memorandum of understanding—has not yet been decided. What do we prefer?
[Shoval] That is true. Each version has its advantages and disadvantages. In principle, the Americans are flexible on this issue. They are willing to give us either a memorandum or a letter, and Israel will decide what it finds preferable after examining the issue.

[Einstein] In other words, this is up to Israel?
[Shoval] Yes, it is up to Israel. Of course, there could be some difference in the contents of one document as opposed to the alternative, and this is also very significant because in the final analysis, despite the importance of the framework, it is the fundamental issues of content that are more important.

[Einstein] Did we receive any promise from the United States that the invitations to the conference will not be issued before the understandings are finalized?
[Shoval] Yes, we received such a promise.

[Einstein] An explicit promise.
[Shoval] Yes.

[Einstein] How long do you think it will take the joint teams to put this document together?
[Shoval] Look, as far as things pertain to Israel and the United States, quite rapid progress could be made, but several points may still have to be ironed out on a governmental basis even after the teams conclude their work. This was the reason for the report that Secretary Baker may return to the Middle East.

[Einstein] Do we know when he is due back?
[Shoval] No, that is not known exactly. It could be at any time between now and mid-October.

[Einstein] Thank you, Ambassador Shoval.

'Painful Statement' in 'Tough' Letter

TA2609061091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The discussions between Foreign Minister Levi and Secretary of State Baker and between the Israeli and U.S. representatives are currently based on the letter of assurances Baker left in Israel 10 days ago. Political sources in Jerusalem expressed displeasure with several points that were mentioned in the letter. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir perused the full text of the document.

There are officials in Jerusalem who feel that this is a tough letter in terms of the central and problematic issues, and therefore, they imply, it might even be better to do without it. The issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, for example, which was discussed yesterday in the meeting between Levi and Baker, was not even mentioned in the letter. Israel, on the other hand, had demanded that the letter explicitly stipulate that the Palestinians would be represented in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and that the representatives would be residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Americans preferred to ignore this. The U.S. letter also fails to note another agreement that was reached during Baker's talks in Jerusalem, namely that the PLO would not be a party to the process, whether directly or indirectly; rather, the letter states that it is not the aim of the United States in the framework of this effort to bring Israel to a dialogue or into negotiations with the PLO. The United States did accept another Israeli demand, however, and the letter states that no party to the conference will be forced to sit down with any other party against its will.

The thorny line in the U.S. letter, however—at least as far as Israel is concerned—explicitly states, and I quote: We do not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and we do not support permanent Israeli control over or annexation of the occupied territories. This is indeed a painful statement. Another problematic statement is this: I would like to reiterate and emphasize, Baker writes, our position that Israel is entitled to secure and defensible borders—end of quote. Jerusalem demands that the letter add that these criteria cannot apply to the 1967 borders.

Other problems: The letter asserts that Jerusalem should remain undivided and that its permanent status will be decided in negotiations. Political sources in Jerusalem would like to delete the clause about the permanent status being decided in negotiations. Baker writes that the United States has still not formulated its final position on the borders, and when it does, it will attach great weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement with Syria must be based on a continued Israeli presence on the Golan Heights—end of quote. The officials in Jerusalem are asking: What does great weight mean? The U.S. answer comes later. In this regard, the letter notes, the United States would be willing to offer U.S. security guarantees regarding the borders that Israel and Syria will mutually agree upon. In summary, the United States, Jerusalem says, is trying to walk between the raindrops without getting wet; Israel, however, is the one that will get drenched.

Qatzav: U.S. Raising Preconditions to Talks

TA2509204791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Knesset affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran and police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov, on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpt] ['Azran] Before we deal with traffic accidents and other transportation issues, we will address the political issue following yesterday's events. Mr. Qatzav, yesterday in Tzur Yig'al the prime minister said, and I quote: All the territories will be inhabited by Jews as far as the horizon. How do you understand this remark? How should the Americans, the Palestinians, and the Arabs understand it?

[Qatzav] There was a big outcry over that declaration, as if the Green Line was canceled only yesterday. Since 1967, all Israeli prime ministers—six, I believe—all the Israeli Governments, and I believe that even U.S. Presidents, recognized the fact that the Green Line no longer exists. Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip sprang into the public agenda because the Americans decided to link this with economic aid to Israel. Not grants, not loans, but guarantees for loans which Israel will return.

['Azran] What does this mean for the peace conference?

[Qatzav] This is indeed one of the issues that worries us. For the first time, in an unprecedented move, there is an attempt to link Israel's political stands and the U.S. intention to impose some kind of sanction on or halt economic aid to Israel. Had the Americans said that there are other reasons for the postponement of our request for loan guarantees, we could have complied. Once this is linked with the Israeli Government's position on the settlement issue, however, even those who today oppose the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza should be interested in having no linkage, no connection, between political issues and aid.

[Kohen-Aharonov] Mr. Qatzav, do you believe that this declaration was timely? Is this the right time to make such declarations? Is there no fear that we are gambling away our very relations with the United States and the whole issue of immigrant absorption these very days?

[Qatzav] Why play games? The Israeli Government was asked not to file its request several months ago. Had we insisted then, you would have asked the same questions. Today, they are asking us: Why are you insisting on this today? It is simple, really: The settlement issue is a territorial one. It is a clear case of an issue that should be

raised in negotiations between us and the Arabs. We have concluded that there will be no preconditions, and the Arabs accepted that, to our great satisfaction. Suddenly, the Americans are raising preconditions....

['Azran, interrupting] We are asking about the declarations at this time, not acts that have already been made.

[Qatzav] Yesterday we laid a cornerstone of a settlement within the Green Line, and the prime minister made a statement that the Israeli Government intends to go on setting up settlements in vacant territories. No one mentioned confiscating Arab lands or taking privately owned lands. We are speaking of setting up settlements which, incidentally, follows decisions the majority of which, if not all, were made by previous governments. To come today and link the issue of settlements—which I view as one of the most important means of preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state, to which 90 percent of Knesset members are opposed, which enjoys a national consensus [sentence incomplete as heard]. If the way to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is setting up settlements, and the legitimately elected Israeli Government believes this is the right way, I believe there should be national consensus in Israel to repel any attempt to link economic aid with the government's political stands. Today it is the settlements, tomorrow it could be Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Shamir Terms 'Arafat's Remarks 'Nonsense'

TA2509163591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today rejected Yasir 'Arafat's statement that Jerusalem will be the capital of the Palestinians, noting that these remarks are ridiculous, vile, and sheer nonsense. Mr. Shamir said that neither 'Arafat nor his partners have the power to change the course of history, according to which Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel.

Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that Mr. Shamir made the remarks following the Betar youth movement march in Jerusalem.

In his speech, the prime minister called for the continued settlement of Israel, saying it should be built day and night, and we must not be deterred in the face of difficulties and obstacles.

Concerning the release of the hostages, Mr. Shamir said that we were not as fortunate as to receive encouraging news or information about our men.

Levi Meets PRC Foreign Minister at UN

TA2509155791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Israel and China have decided to establish closer relations in the fields of commerce and foreign relations. This is what Foreign Minister David Levi told IDF Radio upon concluding his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at the United Nations in New York a short while ago. The relations between the two countries are improving beyond all expectations, Levi told our correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon, reporting from the United Nations in New York.

[Begin recording] [Eylon] David Levi was optimistic after his first meeting at the current General Assembly session. Levi and his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, agreed that Israel and the PRC will strengthen their mutual relations, especially in the fields of commerce and diplomatic ties. Levi said that relations were improving beyond expectations.

[Levi] Our meeting was a direct continuation of our meeting one year ago, in which we established several principles of cooperation that were all implemented. Now, we have formulated principles for action and for the improvement of relations over the coming year: more direct commerce between the two countries, cooperation in the United Nations, consultations between our two ambassadors, and direct contacts between the Chinese minister and myself. I would say that relations are steadily improving far beyond expectations, and we are happy about this.

[Eylon] Are you also optimistic regarding a formal improvement in relations some time in the future?

[Levi] It is said that everything is the result of hard work, and if we are talking about the PRC and Israel, then we are talking about a long time. But I think that we are making up for lost time, and the results have been good and could be much better in the future. I am optimistic.

[Eylon] Meanwhile, the members of Israel's economic delegation in the PRC, who attended the meeting, said that they would increase their activities in the future, with the approval of the Chinese. [end recording]

Levi is due to meet Secretary of State James Baker in approximately 10 minutes at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

Qian To Accept Invitation To Visit

TA2609111191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Sep 91 p A2

[Report by New York correspondent Avi Raz]

[Excerpts] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen refrained from making any promise that his country will support the repeal of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. In a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi and his Chinese counterpart, it was agreed that the ambassadors of both countries will continue to discuss the subject. The Chinese minister did say, however, that "the United Nations has made some wrong decisions in the past." [passage omitted]

Levi invited his counterpart to visit Israel, and Qian promised to accept the invitation. Qian also promised

that he will work to promote trade between Israel and the PRC and that the Foreign Ministry will work on this with Chinese companies.

Levi briefed the Chinese minister on the Middle East peace process. Qian said that Beijing will support any agreement that is reached and that the PRC hopes that such an agreement will be just and fair. Qian pointed out that the PRC is the only one of the five permanent members of the Security Council that does not have any direct involvement in any Middle East conflict.

Lubrani: No Releases Without More Information

TA2509160691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Israel will not release additional Lebanese detainees until Iran delivers all the information on missing Israeli soldier Yosef Fink. This was what Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli team negotiating for the release of the Israeli prisoners, told correspondent Tom Segev.

[Begin recording] [Lubrani] We are now expecting to receive the complete information that we were promised regarding missing soldier Yosef Fink and the South Lebanese Army prisoners. We are, of course, expecting to see some progress on the matter of Ron Arad and we expect the UN secretary general to brief us on the results of his meetings on this matter. Israel will clearly not make its contribution as long as direct interest in its prisoners is not satisfied.

[Segev] Are we waiting for some kind of message or news in the coming hours, toward the end of the day, tomorrow, or the day after?

[Lubrani] To the best of my knowledge, I am not aware of anything that may happen in the next few hours. [end recording]

Baraq on Situation in Iraq, Infiltrations

TA2509181791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe at the Armored Corps display in Tel Aviv on 25 September—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, Patriot batteries are already being stationed in Saudi Arabia. Is there any special state of readiness in Israel?

[Baraq] We are following all the developments, and when we have to do something we will do so without reporting it. If we feel that the public should take any steps we will announce it. Right now the public does not have to do anything.

[Menashe] Do you think that Iraq's nuclear program can be stopped in the long run?

[Baraq] I believe that right now people are not engaged in the development of these nuclear programs but rather in their dismantlement and in searching for the various systems. I have received the impression that the UN team in Iraq is conducting an efficient and determined effort to unveil all Iraq's activities, and this team enjoys the support of the international community and the United States. I cannot know for sure, but I estimate that there is quite a good chance that as soon as the Iraqi ruler sees how determined the international community is to expose all his activities and reveal all the equipment in his possession, he will gradually, step by step, eventually show everything.

[Menashe] Do you think that all the nuclear and chemical installations in Iraq will ever be discovered?

[Baraq] I do not know, and it is too early to make any assessments. I estimate that the intensive searches in Iraq will continue for quite a few weeks. I do not think this is a matter of days, even though I repeat that I do not know, and the Iraqis have already pulled a few surprises.

[Menashe] Is there a real possibility of a renewed military confrontation between the United States and Iraq?

[Baraq] I am not a prophet, and I cannot guess such things. I believe that as long as the Iraqis understand that they are facing a world that is determined to find out all their activities, they will eventually back down and let the UN team conduct its searches; I would like to reiterate, however, that I do not know what will happen.

[Menashe] Mr. Chief of Staff, on the same issue: The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was supposed to reopen the distribution points to examine the gas masks given to the public. Where does this matter stand now?

[Baraq] They will reopen at the appropriate time and there will be announcements to that effect. This process will be spread out over several months, and this is something that was already planned several months ago.

[Menashe] Chief of Staff Baraq, there was another attempted infiltration over the Syrian border over the weekend. Do you foresee an increase in terror activities as the political process moves forward?

[Baraq] I cannot venture any guesses about this. The recent attempts ended successfully as far as Israel was concerned. The terrorists are dead. We are very uncomfortable with the fact that the infiltrations are coming across Syrian-controlled territory, and we think that the Syrians have adequate means to prevent this kind of activity.

[Menashe] There has also been an increase in the use of firearms in the territories.

[Baraq] There has indeed been a rise in the use of firearms, and we will do all that is necessary to get our hands on the hard-core activists who perpetrate these attacks. The other side will be successful on occasion, but we will also have our successes.

Envoy Urges Information Campaign in U.S.

TA2509120991 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Sep 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] The United States is using an information steamroller, both covertly and overtly, aimed at damaging Israel's image, warned Uri Savir, Israeli consul general in New York, in a confidential report to the Foreign Ministry's Information Department.

Savir called for an immediate aggressive information campaign aimed at winning people over not only on the guarantees request and the peace process, but also on basic issues dealing with the justness of Israel's policy and moral values. Savir, who specializes in public relations and communications, urged emphasizing human interest stories related to immigrant absorption and suggested sending Natan Sharansky and other Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants on information tours of the United States.

On the guarantees issue, Savir stressed that the Israeli information campaign must be built around aliyah and not get dragged into the controversial settlement issue, on which U.S. public opinion is very critical of Israel. He also suggested sending the governor of the Bank of Israel to the United States in order to brief the media on the various economic aspects of the loans and to convince the American public that Israel will meet its commitment to repay debts, as it has in the past. [passage omitted]

Arens Permits Civil Defense Units in Settlements

TA2509114891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] The ministers of defense and police affairs recently approved the establishment of civil defense units in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza following debates in various legal committees for over a year.

The civil defense units, which will be operated by volunteers from among the settlers, will be allowed to operate only in the large settlements and under police control and will be restricted to the immediate vicinity of the settlements.

Defense Minister Arens initiated the establishment of civil defense units in the territories following years in which the defense establishment prohibited settlers from operating within such a framework, claiming that only the police and the Army can deal with security. [passage omitted]

Frayj Consults With King Husayn on Conference

TA2509115691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj announced today that in the course of his visit to the United States, he also traveled to Amman, where he conferred with King Husayn and his prime minister and discussed the peace process and the situation in the territories with them. Frayj said he agrees with King Husayn that an affirmative answer should be given to the peace conference.

[Begin Frayj recording, in English] I met with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, and many high politicians in Jordan. We discussed the peace process, the current situation here, and I agree with the king's policy that there is a good chance to have peace in the Middle East between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors, including the Palestinian people. [end recording]

There is a good chance to achieve peace through the conference, Frayj said, and stressed that his meetings with the Jordanian leaders were conducted with the knowledge of the Israeli authorities. He said Jordan and the PLO are conducting joint consultations and coordinating on the variety of problems involved in Palestinian participation in the peace conference. The Bethlehem mayor called on the PNC [Palestine National Council] to adopt a resolution on the peace conference based on reason and not emotion.

[Begin Frayj recording, in English] To consider very seriously and not emotionally, in a realistic way, that we have a good chance in the proposed peace conference. The Americans are determined to see that this conference succeeds, and as long as all the Arab countries, including Israel, will be invited, they are going to accept the invitations, then we, the Palestinians, really should make up our mind and make our decisions in a very clear way and say yes to the Baker peace plan. [end recording]

It has been learned that Frayj agreed with Husayn to participate in the delegation to the peace conference if his candidacy is approved by the PLO.

Space Scientists Said in USSR for Research

TA2509123891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Seven Israeli space research scientists, who are electronics and aviation experts, are at the Soviet Baykonur space base where they are conducting joint research with the Russians. This is reported by the MONITIN monthly, in an article that will be published tomorrow. According to the monthly, the Israeli scientists have been staying at the Soviet base for seven months already. The research was initiated and is being funded by Jewish financiers from Europe and the United States. The article reports that the Jewish individuals

worked out the agreement on this cooperation, whereby the Israelis are mainly engaged in space technology research, with President Gorbachev.

Our science affairs correspondent Meron Tzur notes that Israeli elements refused to confirm or deny this report.

Minister Denies Report

TA2509133991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, denied the report that Israeli space and aviation scientists are currently at the Soviet Baykonur space base. The minister told our science affairs correspondent Meron Tzur that he knows nothing about this and that the whole story sounds like a fairy tale. [passage omitted]

According to the article, the head of the Israeli team told the MONITIN correspondent that the Israelis were given free access to all of the space installations and that the Soviets have shown them their plans to send a man to Mars and other plans to launch various types of satellites.

As was said before, Minister Ne'eman denied the report.

Degel Hatora Leader Warns Against Goading U.S.

TA2509202591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach [spiritual leader of Degel Hatora and Torah Observing Sephardim parties] this evening called on Israel to show gratitude to the United States and not be ungrateful. In a rally organized by the Degel Hatora movement he explained that without U.S. aid Israel would have sustained many casualties in the Gulf war. Schach added that the policy pursued by the United States was understandable in light of its obligations to other countries. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Rabbi Schach quoted Jewish sages who warned against provoking great nations.

King Postpones National Assembly Session

JN2509170091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] A royal decree has been issued to postpone the parliament session in its ordinary term until 1 December 1991. The following is the text of the decree:

I, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph One of Clause 78 of the Constitution, decree the following:

The parliament session in its ordinary term shall be postponed until 1 December 1991.

Reshuffle Closer After Cabinet Debate on Peace

JN2609065291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 Sep 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The cabinet held a lengthy session Tuesday over Jordan's participation in the proposed peace conference, and sources close to the government said there appeared to be a split among ministers who favoured participation and those who rejected the idea of peace negotiations with Israel.

The prime minister, Mr. Tahir al-Masri, reportedly ended the debate that went late into the night, by asking his colleagues to think things over before those who rejected the peace option decided to stay or leave the cabinet.

According to the sources, one cabinet minister has already submitted his resignation to the prime minister while at least two others said during Tuesday's session that they were resigning their posts, leaving the door open for a cabinet reshuffle, which could come as early as next week.

The debate, which was described by the sources as "thorough and very responsible," centred on Jordan's difficult political and economic situation and the need to avoid isolation from peace talks especially since Syria, Egypt and Lebanon have declared their intention to attend the conference.

Muhammad Faris Tarawinah, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, reportedly told his colleagues that while he understood the need for Jordan to participate in the peace conference "the idea went against his ideological dream."

The sources said that Mr. Tarawinah, an Arab nationalist, explained that he "fully understood and is convinced of the changes that are forcing Jordan to enter negotiations but that he finds it very difficult to adapt." He made it understood that he was quitting the government for that particular reason.

Salim al-Zu'bi, minister of municipalities and the environment, also reportedly announced his intention to resign and called on his colleagues not to fall for the pressures and to reject the peace conference. Mr. al-Zu'bi is also considered to be a Pan-Arab ultranationalist.

Al-Zu'bi said that while there are people who believe that non- participation is a form of suicide, he considered participation "a form of treason," one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Ra'if Najm, who wrote his letter of resignation to the prime minister on Sept. 15, charged that "there are legitimate principles which a Muslim cannot compromise on regardless of the pressures and the worsening political and economic situation."

In the 5-page letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, Mr. Najm said any peace between Arabs and the "Jews" would necessarily be to the benefit to Israel since it still enjoyed the support of the U.S. while Arabs were at their weakest. He called for the return to the dictates of Islam and withstanding all pressures until such a time when the Arabs can negotiate a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

"Therefore, at a time when the government is taking a decision to participate in the "regional" conference and in negotiations and although "it is difficult for me to withdraw from the government, I nevertheless must submit my resignation hoping that God will guide you to all that is beneficial to this country," his letter said.

Although the final list of ministers who will resign from the cabinet will not be complete before next week, the sources expected that the reshuffle will include other ministers who will be asked to resign for administrative reasons.

With an eye to speeding up the reshuffle process, the premier has already started consultations with independent political personalities and parliamentary blocs in preparation for the impending change.

Sources told the Jordan Times that the premier has already held a "lengthy" meeting with the head of the Constitution Bloc, Dhuqan al- Hindawi, to discuss the Bloc's prospective participation in the cabinet.

The Constitution Bloc, which is the second largest bloc in the lower house of parliament with 18 members, was excluded from the government formed by Mr. al-Masri but is widely expected to form the backbone of any cabinet reshuffle. It is largely made up of establishment figures and Arab nationalists.

Sources close to the bloc told the Jordan Times that there has not been any serious negotiation in the government and that this was largely contingent on "defining the aims and policies of the al-Masri government in the period ahead." Sources had earlier said that the Constitution Bloc would expect to occupy at least six cabinet posts to ensure its effectiveness within the cabinet.

The leftist Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), which has five ministers in Mr. al-Masri's government, will lose at least one minister, Mr. Tarawinah, when the reshuffle takes place. No final decision has been taken yet on their continued presence in the government and sources close to the Alliance said a final decision will be taken when the Palestine National Council (PNC), currently meeting in Algiers, announces its position towards the peace conference.

The Democratic Bloc, which is the nucleus parliamentary body of JANDA, and the National Bloc of which the premier is a member, joined technocrats and independent deputies to form the first al-Masri government in June and were widely seen as the main strength behind the premier.

Al-Nasur on Peace Conference, Baker Meeting

JN2609072691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur continued his meetings with his counterparts, the foreign ministers of various countries participating in the UN General Assembly's 46th session, including a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. We contacted Dr. al-Nusur in New York, and he spoke with our colleague Muhammad al-Sharif on these meetings and their contents.

[Begin recording] [Al-Nusur] [passage omitted] We met today with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, who called for a meeting of the five Arab countries surrounding Israel, including the PLO. The meeting also included Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. We met at a working dinner to start the five-state coordination process toward the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Minister, you spoke about the five-country meeting between the five Arab states concerned with the peace process in the region, how would you assess the level of coordination during this meeting?

[Al-Nusur] In fact, this meeting was held to launch and start the coordination process. I mean, I cannot claim that the coordination during the past period has been sufficient, constant, or comprehensive. There were bilateral attempts to coordinate with some parties, but in fact we had not succeeded in holding a meeting encompassing the entire group. There was a consensus on the need for coordination, even if there are different views today about coordination; whether it is early or late now, whether it is wise to start it or to delay it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Sir, at your most-recent meeting with the U.S. secretary of state, did you find that the U.S. position on the peace conference has now become crystallized, particularly regarding the date for convening the conference and the mechanism for holding it?

[Al-Nusur] In fact, during my meeting with Secretary James Baker today, I did not find that the problem is in fixing the date. Rather, I found that there are still difficulties concerning the acceptance of the assurances by some parties. Some parties regard the assurances as meeting the questions they posed, and others are still in need of clarification on some questions, comprehensive answers, and more clarification. In fact, the most ambiguous thing is Palestinian participation. All are waiting for the convening of the Palestine National Council, the results of its meetings, and whether the Palestinians would participate or not. But my meeting with him was a chance for talks on what is going on at present regarding Iraq, and on bilateral relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency the Minister, it has recently been reported that the United States and the Soviet Union may extend invitations to the concerned parties to attend the peace conference during the current session of the UN General Assembly. In your view, to what degree are these reports true?

[Al-Nusur] I met accidentally with the Soviet foreign minister, and I will have a long meeting with him in the next days. He gave me the impression that the Soviet Union is maintaining its position and is coordinating with the United States. However, as for issuing invitations to the conference during the UN General Assembly session, I do not think this would be the case because the ordinary session run through mid-December. The Soviet minister will not stay for this entire period, as I think he will leave, like other ministers, by the end of next week. By then, the general debate, which the ministers usually come to attend, will be concluded and the subcommittees will begin their work. In this case, Boris Pankin will not be present in New York, but he will return to Moscow. I believe that the invitations will not be extended during the UN General Assembly session.

[Al-Sharif] Thank you Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur. [end recording]

Potential for Another Hostage Release Reiterated

NC2609084591 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Tehran, Sept 26 (AFP)—An American hostage in Lebanon could be freed before Monday, the Tehran Times newspaper reported Thursday [26 September] citing unidentified sources in southern Lebanon. The newspaper, considered close to the Iranian Government, said kidnappers had decided to release an American captive in response to the "sincere" efforts of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iran and Syria aimed at resolving the hostage question.

The newspaper did not indicate which of the five Americans currently held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon might be released. "The ball again is in the court of the West, who should rush to put pressure on the Zionist regime (Israel) for the freedom of more Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims from the clutches of that brutal regime," the English-language daily said. The paper quoted a source in Lebanon as saying "the American hostage may be released before the weekend ends." [passage omitted]

Source Says Israel To Free Arab Detainees

NC2509081491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] REUTER has cited a fundamentalist Islamic source as saying that the release of Briton Jack Mann will be followed by the release of a group of Arabs who were detained by Israel and pro-Israeli militias. Israeli radio, however, citing Israeli military officials, has reported that Israel has denied that it will free 20 Lebanese detainees today in return for information about an Israeli soldier missing in Lebanon.

Al-Hirawi Promises Security If Israel Withdraws

NC2509204691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] A meeting is expected tonight in New York at 2030 Beirut time between Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

President al-Hirawi did not want to promise Lebanese citizens that all our demands will be met quickly, saying: I hope I will not make promises to the Lebanese people before these promises are actually fulfilled because we are tired of promises and statements. Al-Hirawi promised to maintain security at the Lebanese-Israeli border should Israel withdraw from the south, in accordance with the Armistice Agreement.

In a statement to Lebanese reporters in New York, al-Hirawi stated that U.S. President George Bush asked some of his aides to study Lebanon's request to lift the U.S. military and economic embargo against Lebanon that has been in force since 1985.

Al-Hirawi doubted that the United States will contribute to the Arab and international fund for Lebanon, noting that he will meet with Arab officials to discuss the issue of aid.

Al-Hirawi Meeting With Bush, Others Reported

NC2509184091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Sources close to the presidential delegation [President al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Karami] in New York reported that the delegation's meeting with U.S. President George Bush lasted 45 minutes. Official meetings with the U.S. President do not usually last more than 15 or 20 minutes. The sources said that the talks were friendly.

The sources revealed that after having listened to President al-Hirawi outline Lebanon's needs, President Bush asked Secretary of State James Baker to form a three-member committee to discuss and define Lebanon's needs on the political, development, and moral levels. This committee might meet with President al-Hirawi this evening or tomorrow.

President al-Hirawi is expected to meet with Arab ambassadors this evening. The prime minister will meet with Arab journalists and then with foreign journalists. President al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Karami will attend a reception which Antoine Shadid, Lebanese consul in New York, is holding in their honor at the consulate. President al-Hirawi will also meet with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Army Arrests Suspect in 23 Sep Killings

NC2509041291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Defense Ministry has announced that less than 24 hours after a crime in which four Lebanese Army personnel were martyred in the village of Ma'asir al-Shuf, the Army has arrested the culprit. Shawkat Fu'ad al-Shakar was handed over to judicial authorities for questioning. [passage omitted]

Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], does not believe that the incident at Ma'asir al-Shuf has carried out by one individual, saying that domestic and foreign forces are involved as well. Speaking today in Ma'asir al-Shuf at the funeral of the martyrs killed in the incident, Junbatt said that the PSP and the Druze community will take a clear-cut stand on the issue of the evacuees.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Discuss Issues Over Phone

JN2609053091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad spoke on the telephone with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last night. The conversation dealt with bilateral issues.

Peace Conference Seen as 'Means, Not an End'

JN2509113091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 25 Sep 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The International Conference Is a Means, Not an End," AL-BA'TH says: World Zionism is now looking for a way out of its crisis after the end of the cold war and in light of the international determination to create lasting and just peace in all areas of tension in the world.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel and its Zionist organizations are trying to blackmail peace efforts and the parties to these efforts to dispel the new trends to curb crises and resolve them peacefully. Israel has undergone its first experience against the U.S. Administration and tried to give the world the impression that the world's major power is subject to its will. We do not say that Israel has failed and that the U.S. Administration has foiled Zionist pressures, but it is the beginning that will make the world know the reality of dual Zionist and Jewish loyalty.

The paper asserts that Zionism is the only party in the world that benefits from wars. It is pushing, therefore, for creating new hotbeds of tension and creating pretexts to thwart peace efforts by preoccupying major world powers with searching for a mirage created by Zionist propaganda, whether in Central Asia, Africa, or Latin America.

AL-BA'TH concludes: We as Arabs affirm our concern for peace, as it is recognized by the United Nations and international charters. This concern, however, does not in any way mean making room for Moshe Arens' extortionist threats, because the international peace conference is a means, not an end, because our rights represent the means and the end. As for Israel's attempts to make us believe that the conference must proceed according to its inclinations and conditions, this is not recognized by any Arab, wherever he may be.

Peace Requires Ending Israeli 'Trusteeship'

JN2409145991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In clear defiance of UN resolutions and the desire of the international community, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today inaugurates a new Jewish settlement near the town of Qalqiliyah in the occupied West Bank. Yesterday, Shamir announced that the Green Line between Israel and the occupied territories had been removed once and for all. By this he means expanding the Zionist entity's borders to include the West Bank and Gaza so that Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Ethiopia may settle wherever they choose in these territories.

It is now common knowledge that Israeli Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon envisages the establishment of housing settlements for hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, thus erasing the landmarks of the occupied Arab territories and fundamentally changing their demographic features. Everyone knows that this expansionist and aggressive Zionist policy clearly negates all the peace efforts to convene a conference on the Middle East and realize a just and comprehensive settlement leading to genuine stability in the region.

And while the Arabs responded to President Bush's peaceful initiative sincerely and with a sense of responsibility, Israel worked to undermine this initiative, harm the image of the United States, and tarnish its credibility. Indeed, the Israeli leaders have instigated the influential Zionist lobby in the United States to check the U.S. President's endeavors, and did not hesitate to level insults, accusations, and lies. Despite the support he rendered to Israel, Bush has overnight become anti-Semite and a plotter against the Jewish race, as some prominent Israeli officials have said.

Such an attitude only proves Israel's clear contempt for all international principles and values and its insistence on using the United States and the U.S. taxpayers' money as a means of realizing its aggressive designs and strengthening its continued aggression on human rights. If we do not call the uprooting of the entire Palestinian people from their land and country an act of aggression, what else can we call it? If expelling these people, slaughtering their sons, and denying their children water and food is not a racist, criminal act, what else can it be? And if the insistence on rejecting peace in the Middle East and undermining every peaceful endeavor, including the U.S. efforts, cannot be called an antihuman act, what else can it be?

How can Zionism be better than Nazism if it takes the Nazi path—killing, occupying, expelling, massacring, and claiming superhuman rights and superhuman status?

Over the past several years the United States offered Israel immense assistance estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars. Had it not been for the United States, Israel would not be as it is today. And when President Bush asked the Israeli Government to take a stand commensurate with human rights, UN principles, and international conventions, the Zionist officials were enraged. This is because they have been used to helping themselves without restraint to the U.S. Treasury and drawing up the U.S. policy.

Naturally, the United States today is facing a decisive test. The cause of peace in the Middle East requires ending the Israeli trusteeship over the United States, placing the U.S. decision in U.S. hands, and using all weight of the U.S. to place Israel on the right path, and make it adhere to international resolutions.

Undoubtedly, the cause of peace will see great progress when the United States makes its own decision and treats Israel as the party that violates international will. The United States has all the necessary chips to end the Zionist lobby's control and blackmail and to realize supremacy for the will of peace and justice in the Middle East, which has been in pain for more than 40 years.

Iraqis Determined To Topple Regime, End 'Agony'

JN2609064191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 26 Sep 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the agony of our Iraqi people and says salvaging these people is the chief preoccupation of the Iraqis and the Arab nation. The regime that committed major sins against the Iraqi people and the Arab nation, causing such horrible disaster, never heeded any principles or values of the homeland, Arabism, or Islam, the paper says.

AL-THAWRAH says the Iraqi regime's internal and external practices constitute the most serious threat to Iraq's present and future. It adds: The Iraqi regime is clinging to power at the expense of the people and the Army, and through coercion, terrorism, and liquidation of hundreds of senior officers, because the regime fears a coup to overthrow its leader. But just as much, the Iraqi people appear determined to save Iraq from the regime that pushed them to disasters at all levels.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The regime that tried to rearrange its internal situation by a series of physical liquidations—involving even close aides—and by using a host of misleading pronouncements about democratic reforms, cannot rule forever in this situation where Iraq continues to move along a sharp blade. The Iraqi people must say their just word against those who perpetrated all these crimes and caused all these disasters and catastrophes.

Qaddur Meets European Parliament Delegation

JN2409163991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus—Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, this afternoon received a European Parliament delegation, headed by (Dhimitrios Niyanyas), chairman of the European Parliament's Orient Committee. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, attended the meeting. Talks centered on efforts to convene a peace conference, Syria's position toward the issue, and the obstacles being placed by Israel to prevent the conference. They also discussed the Lebanese situation, Syria's role in entrenching the fraternal country's authority, and the need for the international community to pressure Israel into implementing Resolution 425 calling for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon so that the Lebanese Government can extend its authority over all its territories. The talks also touched on relations between Syria and the EC as well as Syria's willingness to promote these relations to serve their joint interests.

The head of the delegation praised Syria's positive stand and its role under President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He expressed, in the name of the delegation, his great appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad's letter to President Bush as well as his television interview. He also praised Syria's role in helping to free hostages in Lebanon.

Salman Meets Group 25 Sep

JN2509203591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman received a European Parliament delegation led by (Dhimitrios Niyanyas), chairman of the European Parliament's Orient Committee, at noon today. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, and by the ambassador of the European Community in Damascus.

The minister began the meeting by speaking about the European Parliament's positions supporting the implementation of UN resolutions to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Noting the importance of Europe's role and responsibility within the international arena, he said: Syria has done a great deal for European participation in the peace conference and in the efforts being exerted to make this conference a success. The minister pointed to the role played by the Zionist and Israeli lobby in misleading international public opinion, and Western opinion in particular, through the various media organs under its control. He stated: Parliamentarians and the media in the West shoulder a big responsibility with regard to explaining the facts to their citizens and exposing the misleading Israeli and Zionist propaganda which is hostile to peace, to the implementation of UN resolutions, and to international legitimacy.

For his part, Mr. (Niyanyas) praised Syria, its intrinsic strength, and its important role on both the local and Arab level. He said: President Hafiz al-Asad—one of the most important Arab leaders—is known for his capability, qualifications, and shrewdness, qualities recognized by friend and foe alike. Commenting on the European Parliament delegation's visit to Syria, he stated: Our mission is both sensitive and delicate and coincides with the endeavors being exerted to establish peace in the Middle East. Mr. (Niyanyas) explained the task of the European Parliament in following up on

international issues and regional conflicts. He said: Most European parliamentarians are aware of what is taking place in the Middle East; the Israeli and Jewish lobby propaganda has been exposed to them. He expressed the surprise and astonishment of most European parliamentarians that Europe had not been invited to participate in the peace conference. He stressed that the European Parliament is a free power, that its 580 members seek the truth, and that these members support the implementation of UN resolutions on resolving the Middle East problem, Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in particular, as well as the implementation of the two resolutions on the Cyprus issue.

Commenting on the role of Europe, Mr. (Niyanyas) said: Europe has become a major power in the world now that it has overcome its differences and moved toward unity. Europe's role has become more important in the wake of the changes taking place in East Europe and the waves of democracy that have swept through various areas of the world, he added. Europe is working to ensure that peace and cooperation prevail throughout the world. We in the European Parliament, he said, hope to see the Arab world unified and peace prevail in the Middle East.

Concluding his speech, Mr. (Niyanyas) expressed confidence that Syria will do its best to establish peace and to resolve the Palestine question. He said: We hope that the opportunity for peace is not lost, and when we say establishing peace, we mean the adoption of a free decision that will guarantee the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinian people.

Al-Zu'bi, Sudanese Ministers Discuss Cooperation

JN2209182191 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] At 1830 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, head of the Economic Committee, and minister of transport, communications, and tourism; and Ghazi Salah-al-Din, minister of state at the Sudanese Presidential Office.

Transport Minister Yusuf Ahmad and Sudan's Ambassador in Damascus 'Isam al-Rashid Abu-Jadiri attended the meeting. During the meeting, the talks dealt with ways to promote bilateral relations and cooperation, particularly in the fields of maritime and air transportation in the interest of both countries. The two sides stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between the two countries in various economic fields, and to exchange expertise.

Delegation Completes Visit

JN2509192591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, member of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, and Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the Sudanese Presidential Office, left Damascus this morning following a four-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Minister of Transportation Yusuf al-Ahmad, Sudanese Ambassador in Damascus 'Isam al-Rashid Abu-Judayrah, and embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Col. Karrar stressed that his visit to Syria fell within the framework of consultations to further develop bilateral relations. He also said that Arab Syria is the most qualified Arab country to effect Arab understanding, coordination, and detente, particularly under the current circumstances. This is due to Syria's constant pan-Arab position and its sound view of the Gulf crisis. Syria remained above all the trivia that emerged during this crisis.

Al-Asad Meeting With Shaykh Zayid Reported

JN1809154691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Excerpt] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad called on His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyn, president of the United Arab Emirates, at his place of residence in Tishrin Palace. He held a meeting with him that was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, personal representative of Shaykh Zayid. In this meeting, they resumed discussion of the topics that were tackled in the talks between the president and His Highness Shaykh Zayid yesterday. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibollah Calls for 'National Unity' Government

LD2609052891 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0437 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sep 25, BAKHTAR—Najibollah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], took part at the joint session of the both houses of the parliament as per Article 86 of the country's Constitution held today at the store palace of the RA Foreign Affairs Ministry in Kabul.

A BAKHTAR parliamentary correspondent reports that at the parliament's invitation, 'Abdol Rahim Hatif and Dr. 'Abdol Wahid Sarabi, vice-presidents, Abdol Karim Shadan supreme judge, Sayyed Sharfoddun Sharaf attorney general, a number of deputy-premiers, ambassadors and corp diplomatics accredited in Kabul as well as foreign and domestic journalists took part in the session.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representatives, informed briefly to the session on the work of the bicameral session of the parliament.

President Najibollah in his statement in the session emphasized that the RA Government in addition to its previous proposals, proposes that a national unity government be formed based on the Fazl Haq Khaliqyar's government, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, Peshawar interim government, with the participation of nine formations stationed in Iran, council of the opposition field commanders, Afghani personalities residing in USA and Europe and supporter of the former Afghan king, Mohammad Zahir Shah.

Formation of such a government having transitional characteristics should put on the top of its agenda revision of the Constitution, drafting law on elections, refugees return and issue of their resettlement in cooperation with the UNO [United Nations Organization]. It should supervise ceasefire and its observance. Besides this government with the cooperation of the UNO should supervise the issue of arms cut off to Afghanistan.

President Najibollah in his speech in the session talked on the RA Government view points on the peaceful solution of the Afghan problem vis-a-vis the Soviet-U.S. joint statement and the five-point plan of the UN secretary general on the Aghan problem.

He explained the proposals and measures adopted by the RA Government when evaluating sociopolitical situation and latest developments taken for the political solution of the Afghan issue, at national and international levels aimed at ensurance of peace and cessation of fratricidal war in Afghanistan.

We have proclaimed our complete agreement with evaluation and assessment of the parliament members on putting an end to on-going devastating war in Afghanistan through talks and understanding.

While pointing to the position adopted by opposition, President Najibollah said, "some of opposition heads and personalities still consider national reconciliation policy as surrendering to the RA Government but they commit mistakes. Reconciliation does not mean surrendering one side to the other but respecting the will of majority of Afghan people demanding cessation of war through talks and dialogue. [no closing quotation marks as received]

He added, seeking reasonable way of political solution is the only alternative for deepening of democracy and peace as well as safeguarding of Afghanistan having territorial integrity and independence.

The bicameral parliament session warmly welcomed the President Najibollah statement.

Then two senators while approving the statement presented some proposals in the field.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representatives, while thanking President Najibollah about his statement submitted in relation to the recent discussions took place in the parliament, has assured the Afghan leader that the parliament has closely but enthusiastically [word indistinct] initiatives and tireless efforts of the RA state and of you for the restoration of nationwide peace and cessation of war as well as reconstruction of the country.

The RA national assembly supports [word indistinct] and Afghan cause.

Bangladesh

Minister Departs for UN General Assembly Session

BK2009161091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman has gone to New York to attend the 46th session of the UN General Assembly. Mr. Mustafiz will lead a 12-member delegation to the session of the world body, which began on Tuesday last.

Services Chiefs Congratulate Premier Khaleda Zia

BK2309160291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] The chiefs of three services—Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan, Rear Admiral Mohaymenul Islam, and Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury—called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her secretariat office this morning. They congratulated Begum Zia on her assumption of the office of the chief executive of the country under the new parliamentary system of government. The prime minister said all of us should work together for advancement of the democratic system and also for leading the nation to its cherished goal of progress and prosperity. She expressed her firm belief that the valiant members of the armed forces

would contribute their (?might) to the welfare activities of the people along with safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty.

Commentary Hails Parliamentary Form of Government

BK2009130191 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Another milestone on the road to democratic progress in Bangladesh has been crossed today with the induction into office of a democratically elected government. The swearing in of the new cabinet headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia marks the end of 16 years of presidential rule in the country. The executive authority in running the country's administration is now vested in the prime minister, who enjoys the support of the majority members in parliament elected in a free and fair poll on 27 February. The prime minister has become the executive head of government under the parliamentary system of government chosen by the people in last week's referendum. The office of the presidency has been rendered titular and the president to be elected on the 8th of next month by parliament members will enjoy powers given by the Constitution.

The process of transfer of executive power by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to the democratically elected prime minister has been completed. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has earned a special place in history by his conduct of the affairs of the state during the critical months following the ouster of an autocratic regime through a people's movement. He has earned laurels by holding an impartial election that restored democracy in the country.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has earned the singular distinction of being the (?seventh) woman to be the prime minister of a Muslim country. She has a long and arduous democratic struggle behind her. In the past nine years of her political career, she had shown a steady determination to succeed. She had overcome many obstacles in her way and carved out a special place in the hearts of the people by her uncompromising stand against injustice and wrongdoings. The people have confidence in her that she would be able to lead the nation to greater progresses in democracy and economic prosperity. The people have a lot of expectations from this government. These expectations have to be fulfilled in the best possible manner.

The government has already shown pragmatism in emphasizing the mobilization of domestic resources, the growth of a market economy, the promotion of the private sector, and the encouragement to foreign investors for investment in Bangladesh. All these progressive measures have started yielding results. It is now hoped that the government under the able leadership of Begum Zia will strengthen further these policies and make them more effective.

The people in Bangladesh always cherish democracy. This was evident last Sunday when the masses, defying rough weather, came to the polling centers to participate in the referendum on the form of government. The Election Commission, which conducted the referendum, said over 84 percent of the votes cast were in favor of parliamentary form of government, replacing the existing presidential system. Less than 15 percent said they wanted to retain the presidential form. This is the clear verdict from the people that they believe that under the existing political circumstances, a parliamentary form of government will best preserve their interests and the democratic rights. The democracy, which has been achieved at a tremendous cost, has to be preserved and made stronger through the actual practice of democracy at all levels. The government has stressed that it will go for an accountable administration and transparency of all actions. These two elements will go a long way in achieving a functional democracy in Bangladesh which will always reflect the hope of the people.

India

Faleiro Discusses Relations With Pakistan

BK2609042091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, has said Pakistan is hampering development of good relations between the two countries by raising bilateral issues at international fora. Talking to newspersons in Bangalore, Mr. Faleiro said many countries have condemned Pakistan's move, especially aiding terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir. He regretted that Pakistan has so far taken no action to stop it.

Minister Rules Out Army Deployment in Kashmir

BK2509162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that there is no move to hand over the Kashmir Valley to the Army to tackle the situation there. Addressing a press conference at Jammu airport this afternoon, Mr. Chavan also denied that there is any move to hand over power to the former chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, or to effect any major changes at the top level in the state administration. Describing his two-day visit to the state as a fact finding mission, he said he will soon discuss the Kashmir situation with representatives of various political parties. He announced that People's Advisory Committee for district-level development boards are being activated for greater involvement of people in the development process. The home minister disclosed that he will soon put up a paper before the cabinet committee on parliamentary affairs for deciding a proper policy to deal with increasing cases of kidnapping in different parts of the country. About the Kashmir migrants, Mr. Chavan said that they are being rehabilitated at Jammu and other

places only temporarily. Earlier, addressing the migrants at Laghota and Muthi near Jammu, Mr. Chavan assured them that government will do whatever possible for their early and safe return. The minister for communications, Mr. Rajesjh Pilot, who also addressed the meeting said that the government is following a two-pronged policy in Kashmir. He said while the militancy will be dealt with a heavy hand, doors are open for negotiation for those who want to have talks with the government.

A DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police] of Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police on duty has been kidnapped by militants in Kashmir. Efforts are on to trace him. Militants also fired upon a vehicle of security forces at Alikadal injuring one person. Meanwhile, a group of infiltrators surrendered before the security forces along with their arms.

Curfew Imposed in Areas of Andhra Pradesh

BK2509161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 sep 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, curfew has been imposed in 20 police station areas of old city of Hyderabad and three police station areas of Rangareddy District following killing of three persons in stabbing incidents in the walled city today. The director general of police told our Hyderabad correspondent that mobile patrolling has been intensified to check the antisocial elements. The trouble in the city erupted on Sunday [22 September] following a stone throwing incident during a procession.

Admiral Rules Out Combat Readiness Compromise

BK2609093291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The combat readiness of the Indian Navy will not be compromised despite constraints on resources. This was stated by the chief of the naval staff, Admiral M. Nanda, while talking to reporters aboard the aircraft carrier INS Virat after the annual investitature ceremony today. He said optimum management of resources to cut down expenditure without affecting combat readiness is the challenge before the Navy.

'Troubled' Indian Nuclear Program Reviewed

BK2409111791 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 24 Sep 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] In India, workers at a crippled nuclear facility in the country's north have been giving graphic accounts of working unprotected in contaminated areas of the plant. Shutdowns of the Rajasthan Atomic Power plant, or RAPS 1, near the city of Kota, have been commonplace in its 20 years of operation, but only recently have the worst cases come to light. Radio Australia's South Asia correspondent, Christopher Kramer, who just returned from a visit to the site, continues his series on India's troubled nuclear program with this account of life inside the restricted zone.

[Begin recording] [Kramer] In the days before RAPS 1 was built in the 1960s, the Chambal Valley was densely forested and populated by tigers, leopards, and the local Hindu caste known as the Bhil, or forest dwellers. But life based on hunting and gathering was forever changed when a vast area of land was acquired to build the atomic plant. Now it is illegal even to take a photograph of the dam, which covers what used to be the villagers' homes. But there is a red flag with a hammer and sickle flying proudly outside the Rajasthan Atomic plant these days; it represents the trade union which represents the skilled workers inside.

Those employees get modern housing and quality health care at the model colony established in a nearby town of (Rawat Bata), but more importantly they never have to enter the contaminated parts of the plant. For the illiterate villagers of the Chambal valley, however, there is no union. They were persuaded in the 1960s to give up their land with the promise of a job for at least one member of every family. What they got was casual work on day wages, and duty in the most dangerous areas of the reactor. The casual laborers tell of being told to button up their shirts lest radiation, explained to them as some kind of bad spirit, get into their body. They recall being told by management to run for their lives if their film badges turn black, but said they often forgot about the badges as they work to mop up leakages underground. Dhirendra Sharma, professor of science policy at Nehru University in New Delhi, supports the workers' claims.

[Sharma] You see what happened is that the reactors are defective—design defect and also technological problems; they always have routine leaks. Now, if you have an engineer who is highly qualified and highly paid, we cannot sent him to a risk zone to perform a duty. So, those jobs, which are high risk area locations, are performed by unskilled poor laborers who were sent there as casual contract labor, and these laborers are never on the record that they ever entered a radioactive zone. So the government is quite safe to deny that they had never exposed anyone.

[Kramer] While a veil of secrecy surrounds all aspects of the Indian nuclear program, Dr. Sharma says senior officials in private admit that workers had been exposed to high levels of radiation.

[Sharma] There, the deformities have occurred definitely and genetically. Those people are likely to be the people who are working in the reactor system and they get exposed, and therefore their progeny gets deformed. I met the engineers, I met the scientists, I met the workers in almost all atomic power services in the country. Unofficially they all confirm that there had been high leaks from the establishment now, specifically in [words indistinct] atomic power station where we are at present

in the controversy. I have.... [changes thought] My estimate is more than 3,000 workers had been exposed to beyond permissible limits. Also, I have information that about 300 workers had been hospitalized a few years ago when there was a very serious leak—the end shield was cracked.

[Kramer] It is that legacy which critics say is now coming to light in the increased birth deformities and other health problems being reported in villages surrounding the plant. But for the day laborers at the Kota District there are no regular health checkups or medical care. The modern hospital used by the skilled workers, most of whom come from interstate, is surrounded by a high barbed wire fence and local people are banned from entering. [end recording]

Details of Job Reservation Package for Poor

BK2509163691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Government today filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court spelling out the package on reservations for the socially and educationally backward classes and other poor sections. The total reservations in civil post and services under the central government will now be around 60 percent. The new package, however, cannot come into force immediately as the stay by the Supreme Court in the operation of the orders issued by the National Front government in August last year is still effective. The government in its affidavit before the Supreme Court today has said that it will continue to abide by the interim stay order passed by the court until it gives its final verdict.

The office memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel and Training in New Delhi gives details of reservations for each category. It modifies the orders issued on the 13th of August last year by the V.P. Singh government on extending benefits of reservations to the socially and educationally backward classes, bringing the benefits to poorer among these sections and among other classes. The memorandum says that the socially and educationally backward classes will have 27 percent of reservations in central jobs with preference for poorer candidates. In case, sufficient number of such candidates is not available, the unfilled vacancies out of the 27 percent reserved for them will go to other candidates from these classes. Ten percent of jobs will be reserved for other economically backward sections not covered under the reservations for scheduled castes and tribes and the socially and educationally backward classes.

Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said that the criteria for determining poorer sections is being worked out separately. Our correspondent says that the package on the reservations has been evolved after the prime minister had detailed consultations with political parties. Talking to Doordarshan [television], the minister of state for law and justice, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, said that the right to equality enshrined in the Constitution cannot be made a reality unless those who are not equal are helped a little. He said the government will ensure that the benefit of reservations go to the economically poor people.

The Janata Dal and Telugu Desam have strongly criticized the introduction of economic criteria in the 27 percent job reservation for backward classes. The Janata Dal leaders, Mr. Ramvilas Paswan and Mr. Sharad Yadav, and the Telugu Desam leader, Mr. M. Padmanaban, described the move as unconstitutional and alleged that it is an attempt to sabotage the Mandal Commission recommendations. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, they however, welcomed the reservation for the poor among the upper classes, but said the two issues should be delinked.

Analyst Sees Possible Split in Congress (I)

91AS1496A Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 19 Aug 91 p 4

[Article by Manmohan Sharma: "Is a New Split in Congress About To Take Place?"]

[Text] Congress appears to be ready for a split. One faction of the Congress (I) is openly opposing Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. The prime minister has found that his friendship with the BJP is very costly to him. The dissatisfaction felt by the Congressites is coming out in the open now. One faction of the Congress (I) Party is bent upon an open rebellion. The leaders are helpless. They do not have the courage to take action against any of the rebel party members. Lack of discipline is rampant and increasing rapidly. Party leaders without any popular support are threatening the president of the Congress (I) Party. Who is making these dwarfs feel like giants? Former communists and former Secretary General of Congress (I), Mr. Kedar Nath Singh, have come out openly into the battlefield. He had made the open threat that if the present Congress (I) Party president did not change his policy toward the BJP, then the Congress members would have to look for another option. Where did Mr. Singh get such courage after being defeated in the Lok Sabha election? Whose language is Mr. Singh speaking? After the bad defeat in Uttar Pradesh, still not having an understanding of the real situation is not very smart. Will the peoples' prediction prove to be correct that the Congress (I) Party was going to collapse after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination?

The recent election of the deputy chairman of the Lok Sabha also points to the increasing dissatisfaction within the Congress (I) Party. In spite of a clear indication of a "whip" by the high command, 45 Congress legislators did not participate in the vote. About 15 or 16 of the legislators were just sitting in the Congress (I) Party section and talking idly. They did not even think about going into the chambers to vote. Two ministers, Tarun Gogoi and Vidyacharan Shukla, were also in this group. Now efforts are being made to cover up the revolt of these legislators. Legislative Affairs Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, had said that the legislator who had opposed

the "whip" had informed him in advance. However, his claim is incorrect, because no letter was filed by any of these legislators to inform him about his decision not to participate in the voting. According to the "party-changing" rules, if a legislator opposes a party directive, then the chairman of the Lok Sabha can remove him from membership. The Congress high command does not have enough courage to take any action against the legislators who did not participate in the vote. Mr. M. M. Jacob, state minister for legislative affairs, is aware of the helplessness of the present minority government. He tried to avoid the discussion by saying that his party did not want to take any disciplinary action against any of its members.

The Congress (I)-BJP friendship began when the chairman of the Lok Sabha was elected. The BJP had announced that if the opposition parties nominated Mr. Ravi Rai for the chairmanship, it would support him. At this time, Mr. V. P. Singh and his left-wing supporters conspired to teach a lesson to the BJP and put it in its proper place and take some political advantage of the situation. When talks about nominating Mr. Ravi Rai were started by the National Front, it ignored the BJP totally. The V. P. Singh plan called for the BJP not to support the Congress (I) candidate. Therefore, the BJP would be forced to nominate its own candidate. The Congress (I) had already announced its decision to nominate its own candidate for the chairmanship. They had hoped that the National Front and the Left Wing Front would help Ravi Rai win the chairman seat. A correspondent had asked V. P. Singh in those days what would happen if the BJP decided to support the Congress (I) candidate. The rajah of Manda had answered with a smile, "first it will not happen; however, should it happen, I will still benefit from it because I will have the opportunity to say that both the BJP and the Congress (I) are opportunists. The Congress (I) is cooperating with a communal group like the BJP just to help its nominee win the election. The Janata Dal and the Left Wing Front will benefit because the Muslim voters will turn away from the Congress (I) and both the communists and the Janata Dal will win the confidence of the people. One faction of the Congress (I) is strongly opposed to the BJP, and this group will rebel against the leadership and endanger Narasimha Rao's government. The Janata Dal will benefit the most from the new division within the Congress (I) Party."

It appears that Mr. V. P. Singh's prophecy is true. The members of this group, whom the newsmen call the "rebel brigade," are very active these days. Dr. Ratnakar Panday and S. S. Ahluwalia have broken all the rules. They are trying to remind Narasimha Rao again and again that his government was alive because of Sonia Gandhi's support. These people are taking advantage of their alleged connection with the Gandhi dynasty. Dr. Ratnakar Panday claims that Sonia Gandhi is learning Hindi from him, and therefore he has a direct link with the lady. A few decades ago, Yashpal Kapoor had abused Indira Gandhi's name for personal gains. He would tell any central minister or state chief minister that "Madam Indira Gandhi wants this," or "This is Madam Indira Gandhi's order." He had abused Indira Gandhi's name a lot, and became the most powerful person in the nation from a lower division clerk. Many well-established leaders used to beg him for favors. Anybody that made him happy would have his fortune changed. Indira Gandhi used him for collecting information. When she learned about Yashpal Kapur's activities, she closed the doors of the prime minister's residence to him. Her nephew, R. K. Dhawan, replaced him. Yashpal Kapoor was sent to the Rajah Sabha because of his services, and he was given the responsibility for the National Herald. Now Yashpal is a member of the Janata (S) Party. He ran against Mrs. Shiela Kaul during the recent election and was defeated badly.

Times have changed. Now Mrs. Sonia Gandhi has taken over the throne once occupied by Indira Gandhi. She is surrounded by some people who are using her name to give orders with or without her knowledge. "Madam wants this" or "Madam wishes this".... Just like her mother-in-law, Sonia does not have direct contact with the people. It is possible that she does not know who is misusing or abusing her name for selfish reasons. She should watch closely what is happening behind the scenes. The people of the nation still have a strong sympathy for Sonia Gandhi. Her image should be clean in the minds of the people.

The secret agreement between the Congress (I) and the BJP—The BJP leadership was greatly affected by the apathetic attitude of the National Front and left-wing leaders. Mr. Narasimha Rao and Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is very smart, took advantage of this development. Rao is known as a very serious leader, and is close to several BJP leaders. Mr. Chandra Sawami has also contacted some major RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh] leaders. Some secret meetings began to take place between the BJP and the prime minister with the help of these contacts. It is said that the prime minister had assured the top BJP leaders that none of the BJP-controlled states would be interfered with, and that the central government would give full support to their developmental projects, and also that those states would not be discriminated against. The BJP leaders assured the prime minister that they would not create problems for him, and would give him the opportunity to run his government.

The BJP leaders assured their support for a Congress (I) candidate for the position of Lok Sabha chairman. The Congress (I) promised to make sure that a BJP candidate was elected for the deputy chairman position. The Congress (I) brought up the names of Sardar Buta Singh and Shivraj Patil for the position. It is said that Buta Singh did not get enough support; therefore, Shivraj Patil was nominated by the Congress (I). The BJP decided to nominate Mr. Jaswant Singh. The National Front and the Left Wing Front had already decided on Ravi Rai. The BJP and the Congress (I) leaders denied any secret

agreement between the two parties. However, in the end, the BJP announced its decision to support Congress candidate Shivraj Patil.

Upon seeing their definite defeat, the National Front did not even nominate Ravi Rai. Thus, the Congress (I) candidate, Shivraj Patil, was elected chairman unopposed.

A faction of the Congress (I) started to make problems for Narasimha Rao immediately afterwards. One of the "rebel brigade" legislators proved that indiscipline within the Congress (I) was increasing when he opposed a resolution already presented by the Congress (I). A campaign was launched against Dr. Manmohan Singh, the finance minister. The Congress (I) members of the Lok Sabha declared him anti-Rajiv Gandhi and anti-Congress policy. The Kaveri water dispute exposed the helpless situation of the Congress high command even more. The truth is that the people who got into power by promising a stable government to the nation are pushing the nation toward mid-term elections.

Madhav Rao Scindia referred to the BJP as traitors to make sure that the BJP candidate did not become deputy chairman. To protest his remark, the BJP stopped all action in the Lok Sabha. It appears that when the whole affair began to get out of hand, Arjun Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Naarsimha Rao started talks with the BJP all over again. Madhav Rao Scindia wanted to upstage Arjun Singh, and he refused to retract his statement.

It is said that Arjun Singh and Narasimha Rao advised the BJP leaders not to make this issue a question of their prestige, and leave it to the chairman of the Lok Sabha. Mr. Bajpai agreed to it; however, other BJP legislators who were elected with the help of the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] refused to give in. Efforts to placate the members of this extremist group continued for several days. Finally they agreed to cooperate.

On Wednesday, House Leader Arjun Singh had proposed that this issue be left to the chairman. However, the BJP legislators did not let the Lok Sabha work. This protest continued for several days, and finally they had to accept the original proposal. Arjun Singh declared that the Congress (I) would fulfill its promise made to the BJP.

The BJP nominated 61-year-old S. Mallikarjunayya for the deputy chairman position. He was running against the National Front's Rashid Massaud. Rashid Massaud is a protege of Arjun Singh, and lives in the village of Gangoh, Saharanpur, western Uttar Pradesh. He was the health minister in V. P. Singh's cabinet.

Mr. Atal Bihari Bajpai proposed S. Mallikarjunayya for the deputy chairman post. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Lalkarishan Advani. He got 270 votes in support and 104 in opposition. Therefore, the House did not even nominate Rashid Massaud.

Mr. Mallikarjunayya is a lawyer, and was born in a farming family. He was born in a small village and was elected from the Tumukar precinct in Karnataka. Perhaps, he was made deputy chairman so that the BJP image of being a north Indian party would change. He holds degrees of M. A. and L. L. B. He was educated at Mysore University and has associated with the RSS for a long time. He was the regional president of the Jana Sangh from 1971 to 1977. He was vice president of the Karnataka BJP from 1980 to 1986. He has a great deal of experience in the working of the legislative assembly. He was elected to Karnataka legislative council in 1972, and was the vice chairman of the legislative council since 1985. He was re-elected to the legislative council for a fourth time in 1990. This year, he ran for the Lok Sabha.

Even though the Congress (I) had declared that there was a tradition of giving this position to the member of the largest opposition party, it is not true. In 1952, when the first Lok Sabha was elected, its chairman was Mr. Malvankar and the deputy chairman was Mr. Anantshanayam Ayanger. In 1957, the Lok Sabha chairman was Anantshanayam and the deputy chairman was Akali Dal's Hukam Singh, who became chairman in 1962 with S. V. K. Rao as deputy chairman. Both of them were Congress Party members.

In 1971, Hukam Singh became chairman again, and the Congress Party's R. K. Khandaker became deputy chairman. Later, independent candidate G. G. Sawail also occupied this position. When the Janata party came to power in 1977, then the tradition to appoint the major opposition party leader as deputy chairman began. When the Janata Party's K. S. Hegde became chairman, then the Congress Party's nominee was elected deputy chairman. In 1980, when the Congress Party returned to power, it elected Gurdial Singh Dhillon chairman and K. G. Lakshman, member of the DMK, which had cooperated with the majority party, became deputy chairman. Mr. Balram Jakhad became chairman in 1984, and the ADMK's Thambi Durai became deputy chairman. In 1990, the National Front's Ravi Rai became chairman and the Congress Party's Shivraj Patil was elected deputy chairman.

Taking advantage of the violent demonstration in front of Madhav Rao Scindia's residence, the anti-BJP-Congress (I) lobby became active again.

This demonstration is being exaggerated unnecessarily. The purpose is to present Madhav Rao Scindia as a hopeful for the prime minister position. The statement issued by 52 legislators is part of this effort. Mr. Scindia is also upset with Home Minister S. B. Chavan, and has expressed his displeasure to some correspondents.

It is said that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Home Minister S. B. Chavan, and Arjun Singh feel that a faction of Congress (I) legislators is unnecessarily giving too much attention to the demonstrations carried out in front of the Scindia's residence. It is also said that Arjun Singh called some of its supporters and admonished

them that demonstrations are a common occurrence, and that these dramatics were not necessary.

Now supporters of Scindia are organizing a meeting against the BJP in Madhya Pradesh. Mr. V. P. Singh and other leaders of the Janata Dal and the Left Wing are overjoyed at this series of events. They congratulated Scindia for his bold stand.

Iran

U.S. Hostage To Be Released 'Before' Weekend

LD2609080691 Tehran IRNA in English 0631 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Thursday said that an American hostage will be released in Beirut before the weekend. "Our correspondent quoting the same source said that now the ball again is in the court of the West who should rush to put pressure on the Zionist regime for the freedom of more Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims from the clutches of that brutal regime," wrote the paper.

TEHRAN TIMES further quoted the source as having said "the American hostage may be released before the Western weekend ends." The paper added that the source was unable to get further information including the name and the exact time of the release of the hostage.

A retired British airline pilot Jack Mann, 77, was released by Lebanon's "Revolutionary Justice Organization" Tuesday night after 865 days of captivity and was handed over to the Syrian officials. Mann was the fourth Western hostage released since last February. Frank Reed (American), John McCarthy (Briton) and Brian Keenan (Irish) were released earlier. In return the Zionist regime released 51 Lebanese hostage it had kidnapped but has so far refused to release more hostages including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

'Secret' Talks Reported

PM2409135091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 20 Sep 91 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Washington and Tehran in Secret Talks; Kelly Meets With Khonsari in Beirut"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-Kuwayt—Informed political sources yesterday revealed that secret Iranian-U.S. talks were held in Beirut last week and that they focused principally on the release of Western hostages.

The sources believe that the talks were held between John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Asadi Khonsari, director of the Middle East department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Kelly's visit to Beirut coincided with that of Khonsari, who went to Beirut as the head of a delegation including counsellor Ahmad Dastmalchiyan, former Iranian ambassador to Beirut and a major figure in the "Irangate affair," and Mohammad Javad Zamanian, former Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut. Despite Khonsari's assertion that his visit had nothing to do with the hostage issue and that he went there to announce Iran's support for Lebanese legitimacy, the new Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon, Hamayun Alizadeh, a former guard commander, indicated at a private meeting with Hizballah leaders that Khonsari went to Beirut to close the hostage file. Alizadeh also pointed out that Khonsari, who went to Lebanon as part of a tour including Syria and Jordan, was authorized by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to settle the hostage issue by any means. SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that the meeting between the U.S. and Iranian delegations took place in response to the joint desire of both Washington and Tehran, and at a very high level.

To ensure the secrecy of the meeting, it was held at the home of a notable Lebanese figure and in the presence of a limited number of people. Khonsari arrived first at the house, which is situated near the U.S. Embassy, and Kelly joined him a short time later.

The sources said that the meeting was successful and that its results will be forthcoming.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that Dr. Kamal Kharazi, Iran's UN representative, has been entrusted with following up what was discussed at the Beirut meeting when he returns to Washington.

President Rafsanjani admitted last week that Washington was still using its influence to prevent the conclusion of any important trade, industrial, or military agreements between Iran and the Western states before the hostage file is closed.

Khamene'i Decries President Bush's UN Speech

LD2509133791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpts] In a speech at a meeting with a large number of honorable families of martyrs, war-disabled, released prisoners of war, combatants, and Armed Forces personnel, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, strongly criticized the policies prevailing in the world. He described the remarks made by the U.S. President at the United Nations against the oppressed Palestinian nation and in support of the racist and murdering Zionist regime as a cause for the deepening of the hatred of the world's Muslim, liberal, and justice-seeking nations for the great Satan. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere in his speech the leader of the Islamic revolution criticized global policies which are based on bullying, injustice, and disregard for human rights. He said: Today the oppressed Palestinian nation is fighting against oppression, injustice, cruelty, racial discrimination, and racism on the part of a bunch of oppressive

capitalists and statesmen in occupied Palestine. This is while the Zionists are ruling over occupied Palestine with savage and harsh racism. The Zionist regime has imprisoned Muslim Palestinian youths using the worst forms of torture and breaking their bones, thus demonstrating the most malevolent visage of racism.

He censured America's claim to support human rights, saying: The United Nations is a place where the rights of nations should be defended. But, like a bully and a tyrant, the U.S. President has spoken at the United Nations against the oppressed Palestinian nation and in defense of the murdering and racist Zionist regime. Today, the U.S. President has deepened the hatred which Muslim, liberal, and justice-seeking nations of the world feel for him. Politicians of this kind, who are partners and accomplices to the racist Zionists, have no right to speak of human rights. They only use human rights as a weapon to accuse those who oppose them.

Finally, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized the steadfastness of the Muslim Iranian nation against oppressive and unjust powers. He said: We aver that the Zionist regime is racist, oppressive, harsh, and savage, and that hostile confrontation and war, in its true sense, against that regime is the right of the Palestinian nation. [passage omitted]

'Dagger' in Palestinians' Back

LD2509115691 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—The morning English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Wednesday commented on the U.S. President's speech at the U.N. General Assembly calling it a "dagger in the back of the Palestinian nation."

In his address George Bush advocated Zionism and appealed to the General Assembly to repeal its 1975 resolution holding Zionism equal to racism.

Referring to U.S. Administration claims that it is after establishment of peace in the region and plans to do justice in the region through its so-called peace conference, the paper said that Bush's speech was not a slip of tongue. Rather, "it has been the deliberate policy the U.S. has been following for the last many many years."

Stating that in the aftermath of downfall of the Communist empire Washington has got the assumption that "whatever it says should be accepted as an order and all in the world should follow that." [sentence as received] However, Bush and his administration must know that their orders will not be followed by all and soon the true nature of U.S. imperialism will surface meeting stiff opposition of the Third World.

The editorial in conclusion said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran was right in his Tuesday remarks saying that Bush in his address proved he has no concern for the Palestinians and only serves interests of the Zionists.

Velayati Speaks on Regional Issues, Hostages

NC2509071191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Sep 91

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by an unidentified correspondent in New York on 24 September—portions recorded and portions read by announcer]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Correspondent] Our Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in New York to participate in the 46th annual session of the UN General Assembly, delivered a speech to the UN General Assembly and then held brief meetings with the heads of the various delegations who are attending the session. We have interviewed our foreign minister on the objectives behind the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances at the 46th UN General Assembly annual session.

Dr. Velayati, in your speech to the UN General Assembly and in your talks with the heads of the delegations participating in this session, you concentrated on five main points: the Palestinian problem, Persian Gulf security, Afghanistan, the new international order, and, especially, the Third World countries' right to express their views. Please tell us how the Islamic Republic of Iran views the new international order.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. I greet the dear listeners of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran's position on the new international order is completely clear. I described this view in my speech to the UN General Assembly yesterday and in my meetings with the other countries' officials.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the new international order should be based on justice, because otherwise it will not be acceptable to us, to the other Third World countries, and to many other countries that are seeking justice and equality in the new world order.

In the days after World War II, when the foundations for the current United Nations were being laid at Yalta, the only countries involved were the few victors of World War II. Today, nations have awakened, and they want the right to determine their own fate. This is the essence of our outlook on the new international order. [end recording]

[Announcer] In response to a question on the Palestinian problem, Velayati said: Our position has always been one of decisive support for the Muslim Palestinian nation, and we believe that this problem can only be solved through the liberation of Palestine and the full restoration the Muslim Palestinians' rights.

On the American plan for solving the Middle East problem, the foreign minister said: The possibility that American efforts will succeed is very slim—actually it is non-existent—because the countries that have participated in this process have listed various reasons for

having done so. Some of them have said that the objective is to prove Israel's irrationality. We do not accept this view, however, because we believe that if the Arabs agree to talk with the Zionist regime, they will lose all their negotiating points and will have nothing more to offer. We completely oppose this plan.

In response to a question on the results of the Islamic Republic's efforts to solve the Afghanistan problem, Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] Actually, one of the objectives behind the UN secretary general's recent visit to Tehran was to discuss the Afghanistan problem now that some successful efforts have been made on this issue, especially in recent months, in Islamabad and Tehran. After our meetings with the secretary general on the Afghanistan problem and the talks that he held with the Pakistani officials and the leaders of the mojahedin, it was decided that talks among the interested parties—at first with the mojahedin leaders and Pakistani and Iranian officials—be held during the UN General Assembly in New York. A number of mojahedin leaders will come to New York over the next few days to represent the remainder of the mojahedin and to follow up their talks with the secretary general. We and the Pakistani foreign minister will continue these talks with the secretary general, and we hope that more positive steps toward a just solution of the Afghanistan problem will be taken.

[Correspondent] The issue of international security and the new world order was not discussed without also raising the issue of Persian Gulf security and stability. One of the Islamic Republic's clear stances has been in regard to the method for establishing stability and security in the Persian Gulf. Please explain the Islamic Republic's views.

[Velayati] Persian Gulf security is of extreme sensitivity and significance for us and for the other regional countries, and we maintain certain principles about this security. One of these principles is that this security should be based on cooperation among regional countries, and we mean this in a positive and constructive way. For real progress to be achieved in establishing Persian Gulf security—instead of baseless talks—it is better to begin with some kind of cooperation among the countries. This cooperation should be based on equal rights and mutual respect among the countries that participate in regional cooperation. Talks between us and these countries started a long time ago, and we have made good progress. The talks between Iran and the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers are to be held shortly in New York.

Another principle that we believe in and that we have repeatedly stressed, both in official talks and publicly, is our opposition to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf in any form. We place great emphasis on this principle, and will never alter this view in any way. Time has proven and will continue to prove that any type of foreign intervention or presence in the region can only backfire. Not only does it not create security, but it establishes insecurity. [end recording]

[Announcer] Commenting on the release of the British hostage, which some elements of the Western press have linked with the UN secretary general's visit to Tehran, Velayati said: Mr. Perez de Cuellar has exerted many efforts for the hostages' release, including his visit to Tehran. The foreign minister said: The UN secretary general's comprehensive and relatively careful efforts for the release of the hostages have made him the most successful political personality involved in this issue. Velayati added: The UN secretary general has promised to do his best to secure the release of the Iranian hostages who were taken in 1982 by the Phalangists and we will take advantage of our presence in New York to follow up the issue when we meet with the UN secretary general. In conclusion, the foreign minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will do all it can for the release of the hostages.

Views New World Order at UN

NC2409093791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent in New York on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's speech to the 46th session of the UN General Assembly; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In a speech to the 46th session of the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Velayati has said that any type of system for regional security and cooperation in the Persian Gulf should be founded by the countries of the region without foreign interference. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the southern Persian Gulf countries need security in the Gulf to achieve economic expansion. Stability, calm, and an atmosphere of mutual trust can only be created in the region if it is kept free from the presence and intervention of foreign forces.

Our foreign minister said that he is seriously opposed to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and went on to discuss the Afghanistan problem. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the formation of an Islamic, independent, and nonaligned government in Afghanistan which has friendly relations with its neighbors. The foreign minister added: To achieve this objective, the people of Afghanistan should choose their rulers through free elections and should respect Islamic values.

Our foreign minister then embarked upon a detailed discussion of the various aspects of the Palestinian problem in view of the recent developments and said: Undoubtedly, the Palestinian problem is the longest regional crisis in the history of the United Nations. It continues to be a chronic disease due to the policies that characterized the previous system, and this problem can rightly be described as the primary and most painful

problem facing the world of Islam. Our foreign minister said: At a time when hope has risen that regional conflicts in the world will be solved on the basis of what the nations themselves want, unfortunately, we do not see even the slightest chance for a just and respectable solution of the Palestinian problem and for the revival of the rights of this oppressed nation.

Dr. Velayati then went on to discuss the aspects of the new system of international relations that has followed the disintegration of the unjust system that prevailed in the past—which was primarily characterized by the superpowers' rivalry for the domination of other nations. He said: If the international trend toward establishing a new world order is exploited in order to stabilize a superior power as the ruling pole in the new system, it naturally cannot be accepted or trusted by the international community, nor can it gain effective international cooperation. Undoubtedly, the new order will only be comprehensive, gain broad acceptance, and succeed if its formation involves serious and active cooperation among all the members of the world community—especially the countries of the Third World, which have not had many opportunities to express their views on this process. Using divine values as a base for forming the future international order is a reliable framework which can avoid the deviations and problems of the past and can ensure the health of the world community.

Velayti Meets Hurd, Discusses Expanding Ties

NC2609062391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Last night Foreign Minister Velayati met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and reviewed the expansion of relations between Tehran and London, the current developments in the Persian Gulf, the situation in Iraq, and international developments, including those in the Soviet Union and Yugosavia.

During this meeting, the British Foreign secretary emphasized his country's wish to broaden relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed appreciation for Tehran's efforts in obtaining the hostages' release.

Mr. Velayati explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on regional security and said: Security in the sensitive Persian Gulf region can only be secured with coordination by the countries in the region. He stressed that foreign intervention in the region has exacerbated the situation.

Besharati on Hostages, USSR, U.S. Forces

LD2409080491 Tehran IRNA in English 0629 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, stressing Iran's opposition to hostage taking in any form and for any reason, said "there was no hostage in Iran and whatever the Zionist regime has been saying is merely a lie and nothing else."

In an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' published Tuesday, Besharati referring to Tel Aviv claims that a Zionist pilot was kept in Iran said "Of course, Israel is just blocking the way for the release of Lebanese and Palestinian hostages through lame excuses."

He added that Irael through such lies is trying to distort the attention of good intentioned people who are really sincerely trying to close the hostage file for good.

Besharati expressed optimism that the Zionist plot will be "neutralized" and that "by January all hostages irrespective of their nationalities will be able to go home."

On the last week visit to Tehran of Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov, he said the trip was "positive and on time."

Asked whether any agreement was concluded with the Soviet official during his two-day stay in Tehran he said, "Iran is intending to provide credit to the Soviet Union so that the present difficulties being faced by that country may be removed."

He hoped that Tehran-Moscow relations will improve further.

On the recently signed Kuwaiti-U.S. military agreement, he said "We are concerned over the Kuwaiti-U.S. defence agreement and we have asked for the details of the accord from the sheikhdom."

He added that presence of alien forces will lead to crisis and that the regional security mut be provided by the regional states.

Views Region, Peace Plan

LD2509144391 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 25, IRNA—A senior Iranian official here Tuesday asserted that the U.S. has no chance for holding the so-called Middle East peace conference and the prospects for holding it are dim. [sentence as received]

In an interview with IRNA, visiting Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati reiterated that the Islamic Republic is totally against presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf region. Besharati arrived here Tuesday on a two-day official visit to exchange views with senior United Arab Emirates officials on the current Persian Gulf developments and bilateral relations. "We believe that the security in the Persian Gulf must be provided solely by the regional countries away from outside interference," the Iranian official stressed.

On the recent Kuwaiti-U.S. military accord, Besharati said that the agreement, its article 4 in particular, has caused concern for Iran and that Kuwait has been informed of Tehran's concern.

Asked to comment on Tehran-Riyadh ties, he said they are "excellent and have never been so good in the past 14 years." He added that deepening of Riyadh-Tehran relations is in the interest of the world Muslims and predicted that bilateral relations will grow further in all domains.

As for Tehran-Washington relations, Besharati said that no ties exist between the two countries.

Commenting on the recent developments in the Soviet Union and Iran's relations with the neighbouring Soviet republics, Besharati said Tehran will establish ties with these republics within the framework of her overall relations with the Soviet Union.

As for the recent trip to Tehran by an Iraqi delegation, he said Iran has not altered its stands towards the Iraqi regime and that she respects the U.N. Security Council resolutions. He added that there are still many Iranian war prisoners in Iraq whose fates were brought up in talks with the Iraqi delegation. As for Tehran-Damascus ties, Besharati said they were excellent adding that the trend will be continued in future.

Majles Deputies Assail Kuwait for U.S. Pact

LD2509131991 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25 (IRNA)—A large number of Majles deputies in a statement here Wednesday castigated the Kuwaiti rulers for having concluded a military accord with the U.S. last Thursday.

In a statement signed by 140 deputies and read in the open session of the Majles, the deputies said, "The treacherous Kuwaiti rulers by signing the military pact are trying to officially stabilize the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region."

It added, "The aggressive and expansionist U.S. regime by making use of subserviency of the Kuwaiti rulers is after gaining the highest concessions in order to establish military base and greater domination over the Persian Gulf."

The Majles deputies continued, "The Kuwaiti rulers have no right to endorse any colonial agreement under the name of the Kuwaiti oppressed nation."

The deputies appealed to president, the Supreme National Security Council and foreign minister "to follow the developments in the region closely and carefully." They also urged the nation to observe further vigilance vis-a-vis the developments in the sensitive Persian Gulf region.

Visiting Syrian Official on 'Foreign Forces'

LD2509164691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The Syrian chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, Mr. Hikmat al-Shihabi, arrived in Tehran at the head of a military delegation this evening. He was welcomed by Major General Shahbazi, the chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

The Syrian chief of the General Staff in an interview with our correspondent said that he carries Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's verbal message for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our country's president. He also condemned the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region and said: We are inclined to believe that all alien forces should leave the region.

Student Demonstrations, Violence Reported

NC2509132091 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] As schools have opened at the start of the new academic year, unrest has been reported in many of the cities, primarily Tehran. Students from the (Mer'aj) Boys' High School in Tehran gathered at 'Eshratabad Square and shouted slogans of death to Rafsanjani. When they wanted to move toward Pol-e Chubi, the regime's suppressive agents attacked them and hurled tear gas at them. In an effort to disperse the demonstrators, the regime's mercenaries arrested several students and two teachers from the school who were demonstrating against the regime.

Another report has indicated that students from Hashtrudi High School in Tehran's Kakh Square broke the school's windows on the morning of 23 September. While chanting harsh slogans against the regime's officials, the students took to the streets and demonstrated on Takht-e Jamshid Avenue. This demonstration resulted in clashes with the Revolutionary Guards' special suppression unit when the people began taking the students who had been wounded to the hospital.

A stun bomb exploded on 23 September in front of Tehran's Amir Kabir High School on Naser Avenue, causing the students to flee the school and return to their homes. The [word indistinct] and (?Teacher's) Council have issued a statement saying that they will demonstrate against the regime with the students every day.

Other reports have indicated that on 23 September, the first day of the new academic year, teachers and students refused to attend classes in most of the schools in Tehran and in other cities. The schools closed at 1000 on the pretext of [word indistinct] with the presence of only the principal, prefects, and tutors.

Student Sit-Ins Continue

NC2509132891 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] On Monday (?agents) of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and hezbollahi students [word indistinct] foundations clashed with ordinary students of Melli University who were continuing their sit-ins in support of the striking workers of Iran's plants and in protest of high prices, famine, shortages of dormitories, and suppression. The clashes ended when agents deployed in the university intervened. The clashes also made the students realize that the regime intends to fight the strikes the Tehran University students are carrying out.

Another report from the university students indicates that the professors in Tehran universities have joined the students and that the people are continuing their demonstrations on the streets around Tehran University. The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education has issued a statement threatening the students with explusion this year if they do not attend university classes. The report continues by saying that this statement has had no affect on the university students or professors.

Rebel Radio Decries 'Propaganda' in Sermons

NC2309211391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] As you know, since coming to power and establishing a blatant dictatorship in our country, the Islamic Republic's regime has used all its capabilities and resources for propaganda efforts. These efforts, which are generally based on lies and demagogy, are not limited to radio, television, and newspapers, but also include mosques and places of worship. [passage omitted]

The problem the clergymen presented the propaganda services that has given the regime fits is the method the Friday imams and the ayatollahs' representatives used, from the very beginning, and are still using. As the dear listeners know, the Friday imams and the ayatollahs' propaganda has been mostly employed to fool the people. If the remarks and sermons by these clergymen did not conform with the regime's foreign policy, it was not important to the ruling clergymen. Now, however, the Friday prayers have lost their popularity as evidenced by the considerably dwindling audience. This is happening at a time when Rafsanjani and his government are paying special attention to creating a facade to fool world public opinion, and the speeches and remarks by the Friday imams and other clergymen continue to be just the same as before. But these speeches, which no longer impress even the naive, are also detrimental to the hypocritical policy which Rafsanjani and his government have adopted on the outside world. Because this is detrimental to the regime, Rafsanjani has held the seventh seminar of the Friday imams to give them a new propaganda line.

In this recent gathering, Rafsanjani insisted that a precise and long-term propaganda program be followed because, as he said, the Friday imams are not only speaking to the Iranian people but to the entire world. In order to be more successful in this, he said, all hints of extremism and fanaticism in propaganda should be avoided.

These remarks both encourage and assure the West that Rafsanjani's policy of rapprochement is being implemented not only in the framework of the government, but gradually in religious places as well and that the slogans "death to America" and "great Satan" are being replaced by words and terms which smack of rapprochement.

Naturally, the impudence of the Friday imams and the ayatollahs' representatives in the various parts of Iran is so great that they will not take back their strong words and slogans, aimed at misleading the naive, and speak in a totally new way. Even if the clerical regime's new propaganda line and Rafsanjani's directives succeed to a certain extent in coordinating the remarks and speeches with the regime's foreign policy, they will nevertheless clarify to the masses, even to the naive, that before their religious—or as the regime says, worshipping—side, the objectives behind these Friday prayers are political and demogagical propaganda. This, in turn, will render these prayers more unpopular and will further reduce the value of the speeches and sermons by these clergymen who have been appointed by the regime as so-called Friday imams.

Health Ministry Reports Population Growth

LD2509035891 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Director of the Family Planning Center of the Health Ministry Dr. Hamid Assadpour said here today that Iran's population growth rate is 0.7 per cent higher than other developing countries.

In the developed countries the population growth rate is 1.7 per cent per year and in the developing countries 2.2 per cent.

He said the 12 million farmlands in Iran produce food for only half of the country's 60 million population which means food for the other half has to be imported.

The Health Ministry official said Iran had plans to reduce its population growth rate of 3.2 percent per year to 2.9 in 1993-94, a project which, he said, had already been fulfilled well ahead of the projected year.

He said the Health Ministry is to implement various projects for ensuring a more controlled population growth including the abrogation, in conjunction with

responsible government agencies, of policies or regulations which tend to encourage married people to have large families.

Assadpour said presently 15 percent of the able-to-work population of Iran are unemployed, that 35 per cent of the Iranian people are unlettered, and that 800,000 of the school age children are not getting an education.

He said illiteracy, and public ignorance of the threats of population explosion as well as the scarcity of birth control devices, and absence of sound policies for population control are the principal reasons responsible for the high population growth rate in Iran.

Pakistan

Akram Zaki Meets Soviet Foreign Minister at UN

BK2609072891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign ffairs, has met with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin in New York. He exchanged views on Afghanistan, the situation in South Asia, and bilateral relations. Later, Pakistani officials said Akram Zaki told the Soviet Foreign Minister that the present government in Pakistan decided to make every possible effort to improve bilateral relations. He said Pakistan gave top priority both to development and peace. Pakistan wanted to resolve all disputes peacefully and improve friendly relations with neighboring countries under those priorities. The secretary general said Pakistan attached great importance to relations with the Soviet Union. The officials said the Soviet Foreign Minister also expressed a desire to strengthen relations between the two countries. The secretary general told Pankin that Pakistan would continue its efforts toward a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghan problem [words indistinct].

Meeting With Pankin Detailed

BK2609102791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, has held talks in New York with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Boris Pankin, on Afghanistan, the situation in South Asia, and bilateral relations. The secretary general told the Soviet foreign minister that Pakistan wanted to resolve all disputes with its neighboring countries peacefully and develop friendly relations. He said Pakistan was determined to continue its efforts for a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan. The Soviet foreign minister said that Moscow was equally interested in an early settlement of the issue and to work in close cooperation with all concerned parties.

Pakistani officials said the secretary general of foreign affairs also informed the Soviet foreign minister that Pakistan wanted to engage India in a constructive dialogue [words indistinct] toward nuclear nonproliferation and arms control in South Asia. The Soviet foreign minister welcomed Pakistan's efforts for the peaceful resolution of disputes with India.

Mr. Akram Zaki said that Pakistan attached the highest importance to its relations with the Soviet Union. The officials said the Soviet foreign minister fully reciprocated Pakistan's desire for strengthening ties between the two countries.

Indian Shelling at Kashmir Border Leaves 9 Dead

BK2509162191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 25 (AFP)—Pakistan reported nine more civilian dead in alleged Indian shelling across the dividing line of control in Kashmir Wednesday.

The "unprovoked" artillery fire on the village of Shah Kot in the Athmuqam sector also left many injured, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

Twenty people have been killed and dozens injured in three Indian attacks on villages close to the border this month, according to the agency.

The official reports cast doubts on whether a ceasefire implemented by Pakistan and India along the common frontier in Kashmir at the start of September was still holding.

The military commanders agreed to the ceasefire after fierce artillery exchanges late last month that killed an estimated 60 Pakistani and Indian soldiers.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju, said Tuesday that Pakistan would raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations General Assembly.

Kanju was to leave for New York on Wednesday to attend the assembly's session.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and harbouring Muslim secessionists from its part of Kashmir which is divided between the two countries.

Pakistan denies the charge but vows political and moral support to what it calls the struggle of the Kashmiris to achieve their right to self-determination.

Several thousand people have died in Indian-administered Kashmir since early last year in violence linked to the Muslim separatist campaign.

The two neighbours have fought two wars over Kashmir since independence from the British and partition of the sub-continent in 1947.

Army Says 8 Indian Soldiers Killed

BK2509163091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Sept 25 (AFP)—The Pakistan military said Wednesday that eight Indian soldiers had been killed in exchanges of artillery and mortar fire along the dividing line of control in Kashmir.

A number of casaulties, including civilians, had occured on the Pakistan side, the military headquarters said, adding that "sporadic exchanges" had been going on for the last several days. [passage omitted]

Previously, the agency had reported 11 civilian deaths and injuries to dozens in what it called "unprovoked" attacks by the Indian forces.

The reports coincided with statements by Islamabad that Pakistan would raise the Kashmir issue at the U.N. General Assembly and speak about "massive violations" of human rights in Indian-administered Kashmir. [passage omitted]

The reports cast doubts whether a ceasefire implemented by Pakistan and India along the common frontier in Kashmir at the start of September was still holding.

Sharif Stresses Need for More Defense Production

BK2509162791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister presided over the union darbar [assembly] of the corps of engineers of Pakistan Army in Risalpur today. Speaking on the occasion, he said the nation has reposed full confidence in the institution of the Pakistan Army and all out efforts would be made to make it an enviable force. We should not be dependent on others for arms and equipment. The prime minister said some contries wanted to mould Pakistan in pursuance of their own policies, but our nation could in no way be cowed down. He said the defense production of all kinds of weapons should be ensured.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan was making efforts to achive durable peace in the region. It would welcome any move toward attainment of this goal. But if Pakistan faces any danger and war is thrust upon it, the (?armed) forces in the nation would prove their strength and the striking force would be smashed. However, he hoped such a situation would not arise.

The prime minister expressed grave concern over perpetration of atrocities on Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir who have been denied their due right. He said Pakistan would continue its moral and political support to Kashmiris.

President Meets Mexican Group, Australian Envoy

BK2509164091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] A delegation of the Mexican senate led by its current president, Senator Fernando Silva Nieto, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They discussed bilateral relations and prevailing world economic scene, particularly debt problems facing developing countries.

The outgoing High Commissioner of Australia, Mr. G.J. Price, also paid a farewell call on the president. The president briefed him about Pakistan's position on Kashmir and Afghanistan problems.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Votes To Extend State of Emergency

BK2509135191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The resolution to extend the state of emergency by a further month was passed with a majority of 59 votes this afternoon. There were 131 votes for the resolution. This is the first time that such a vast number of votes were received for the resolution to extend emergency since the recent past. Seventy two members opposed the motion. In addition to the 124 members of the government party, four members of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and another two independent members voted for the resolution.

The speaker, M.H. Mohamed, made a statement to the house at the commencement of proceedings this morning regarding the impeachment motion against the president. He said he was looking into the matter at present and his decision will be made known to the house as soon as possible. Mr. Mohamed said that written and oral representations have been made to him questioning the validity of the signatures to the resolution. He will convey his decisions after taking into consideration all these representations.

Prime Minister Defends Extension

BK2609113491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The resolution to extend the state of emergency by a further month was passed in parliament with a majority of 59 votes yesterday. There were 131 votes for the resolution. This is the first time that such a vast number of votes were received for the resolution to extend emergency since the recent past. Seventy-two members opposed the motion. In addition to the 124 members of the government party, four members of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and another two independent members voted for the resolution.

It was a great victory for the government and an endorsement of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's decision to extend the state of emergency. Political analysts have explained that this victory was due to the government's efforts to strengthen the country's economy, to establish peace and security in the country.

Winding up the debate on emergency, the prime minister and state minister for defense, D.B. Wijetunge, said that the fullest confidence be placed in the armed forces, and added that victory in battle was assured. Everybody must be united to achieve victory. The dawn of victory is at hand. He said that obstructions if exercised will be an irresponsible act. They [opposition] are unaware of the damage which could be caused by their irresponsibility. Their arguments are baseless. There are 1,080 detained LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and 5,294 [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] suspects. If the emergency is lifted, all these persons will have to be released. The prime minister queried from the opposition as to what the situation would be if all these detainees were released.

No Confidence Motion Submitted

BK2609040891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the main opposition, the Sri Lankan Freedom Party and three other parties have sponsored a no confidence motion against the United National Party government of the alleged supply of arms to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Our Colombo correspondent reports that the motion was submitted by the leader of the opposition, Mrs. Bandaranaike, and representatives of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna] and the LSSP [Lanka Sama Samaja Party] to the speaker last evening before the house was adjourned till the 8th of next month. The motion alleged that the Premadasa government supplied arms and other equipments to the LTTE when the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] was pulling out of the island two years ago.